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Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Asad Closed Session Summit Speech Cited

JN2505162889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A protracted closed meeting held last night and attended only by delegation heads to the Casablanca emergency Arab summit is commanding much interest.

Conference circles say the meeting has moved from a discussion of the Arab-Zionist dispute to Lebanon with the Syrian position capturing the attention of all the delegations and observers following the conference.

It has been learned from conference circles that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad talked for almost 3 hours at the closed session reviewing the Lebanese question, its origins and developments and their bearing on pan-Arab security. He underlined Syria's considerable efforts and sacrifices to help Lebanon and its people work out a solution that addresses the roots of the Lebanese problem.

His excellency the president pointed out that no relationship between Lebanon and another Arab country or any other country for that matter compares with the historical, geographical, and human uniqueness of the relationship between Syria and Lebanon. It is this uniqueness of the relationship between Syria and Lebanon that has, above all, driven Syria to make numerous sacrifices and offer substantial aid to sisterly Lebanon over the years.

His excellency said the Syrian presense in Lebanon is legitimate and the deployment of Syrian forces was endorsed by the the legitimate authorities represented by the country's president, government, and people. The president and government of the time were installed in office as a result of elections, and their legitimacy was irrefutable. Also the state institutions were united and effective, and excercised their legitimate powers, his excellency said.

The president added: The Lebanese problem is a Lebanese affair and as such the only solution thereof lies in national reconciliation among the Lebanese themselves. The Lebanese have to solve their problems for themselves and for its part Syria will do all it can to promote the dialogue among the Lebanese. All of us, the Arabs, must not spare ourselves in helping them bridge their differences and work out a compromise formula to extricate the Lebanese from this situation that is causing pain to Lebanon, Syria, and all the Arabs. This is the objective that Syria has promoted in the past and is promoting now so as to help the Lebanese brothers reach reconciliation in pursuit of a nationlist solution that meets the interests of all the Lebanese parties as well as supreme Arab interests.

The president added: Syria is interested in Lebanon's security, and the security of each country is connected to the security of the other. Therefore, when Syria takes an interest in Lebanon's security, it defends the security of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation. This is because when Syria's security is threatened, the whole of the Arab nation will be threatened, and Syria cannot be assured about its and Lebanon's security except when a nationalist unified government is formed in Lebanon, which originates from national reconciliation among the Lebanese sides.

The president said: Our task is to help the Lebanese agree among themselves. No one can object to what the Lebanese agree upon. Also, a small minority cannot claim to represent all the Lebanese and speak on their behalf. No one can force the Lebanese to accept the system that they should adopt because they are the ones who decide. Therefore, we say that all of us must seriously work to help them and seriously and effectively urge them to reach an understanding over a reconciliation formula. Any relation between Syria and Lebanon is decided between them in light of the achievement of Lebanese national reconciliation and the formation of a national unity government in Lebanon.

It has been learned from the observers and press circles following the conference proceedings in Casablanca that the position presented by President Hafiz al-Asad has received broad understanding from the majority of the heads of delegations taking part in the conference and that they believe that Syria's efforts to help Lebanon are indispensable and consider these efforts important to reach a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Final Summit Session Slated for 26 May

NC2505214089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 25 May (MENA)—Arab leaders have decided to hold the closing session of the emergency Arab summit meeting currently under way in Casablanca tomorrow, Friday, to announce the final statement and the resolutions and recommendations of the summit.

The leaders will meet behind closed doors at 2200 today Morocco time, 0100 Cairo time [2200 GMT].

Further on Summit Closure

LD2505222789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] It was announced tonight that the final session of the emergency Arab summit has been postponed to Friday. Moroccan television, which announced this, stated that the postponement would give the committees drafting the resolutions and recommendations the opportunity to complete their work.

On the other hand, President Husni Mubarak confirmed that the Arab leaders have arrived at a decision on the Lebanese issue which can be implemented. [passage omitted]

Lebanon Impasse Causes Delay in Summit Closing

King Husayn's Compromise Fails

NC2505132789 Paris AFP in English 1305 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, Morocco, May 25 (AFP)—Arab leaders hit an impasse Thursday [25 May] over Lebanon as hours of tense debate failed to resolve fierce differences between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraq's Saddam Husayn, conference sources said.

The emergency summit, which had already stretched into an unforeseen third day, was under mounting pressure to produce a solution with officials insisting that it would conclude Thursday.

Arab leaders met behind closed doors for six hours Wednesday night to try and forge a common stand on Lebanon, gripped by devastating fighting between pro- and anti-Syrian forces.

"The atmosphere was extremely tense," said one delegate.

Jordan's King Husayn, according to diplomatic sources, submitted a compromise proposal, but it failed to end the division.

The main conflict was between Mr. al-Asad, who maintains more than 35,000 troops in Lebanon and backs the government of Sunni Moslem Lebanese Premier Salim al-Huss, and President Husayn, who supplies weapons to Michel 'Awn, the Maronite Christian general who leads a rival cabinet and has vowed to rid Lebanon of the "Syrian occupier."

"It was war," said one delegation source of the exchanges between the Iraqi and Syrian presidents. "It was a war of words, but it was war."

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY described Lebanon as "the most complicated and hottest issue in the Arab arena," while in Syria the newspaper AL-THAWRAH warned that the "Lebanese crisis will see a new cycle of violence, even though this question will have been one of the most important on the summit agenda."

There is a long history of bad blood between Mr. Husayn and Mr. al-Asad, who lead rival wings of the Ba'th Party and compete fiercely for leadership of the Arab world. Syria was the sole Arab country to publicly side with Iran throughout the Gulf war.

Foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League—Egypt regained membership with this summit—were meeting at midday Thursday to try to agree on recommendations to submit to the summit on Lebanon. Arab diplomatic sources said that formulation of resolutions on the two other issues—the Arab-Israeli and Iran-Iraq conflicts—was virtually complete.

The Jordanian compromise on Lebanon that has been the basis of debate contains four points, according to diplomatic sources. First, it opposes the "Balkanization" of Lebanon, where 14 years of war have created a patchwork of confessional cantons.

It calls for the implementation of Arab resolutions on Lebanon, an apparent reference to last's month's Arab League call for a cease-fire based on the lifting of land and sea blockades and the dispatch of an Arab observer force to monitor the truce.

Thirdly, the paper called for the "withdrawal of all Israeli and Iranian troops from Lebanon," according to the sources. Israel controls a 10- to 20-kilometer-wide (6- to 12-mile) "security zone" north of its border in southern Lebanon, while Iranian Revolutionary Guards are reportedly present in the Al-Biqa' valley and some other Shi'ite Moslem areas.

Once these steps were compelted, "Syria will have done its job in Lebanon and join Arab forces would be installed for a specific purpose and duration so that Arab countries can bear what Syria has borne," the document reportedly said.

Several countries objected to the idea of deloying a joint Arab force in Lebanon, according to delegation sources. Syria originally entered Lebanon as part of such a peace force in 1976, but remained when the other states withdrew.

Committee at 'Impasse'

NC2505204189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 25 May (MENA)—The drafting committee that has been charged by the Arab foreign ministers with drawing up proposals to solve the Lebanese problem did not achieve specific results during its meeting today.

Committee sources have stated that the committee meeting, which went on for 2 hours, ended at an impasse.

However, these sources noted that King Hasan II of Morocco has called the Moroccan, Syrian, Kuwaiti, and Saudi foreign ministers to convene a meeting in an attempt to draft and agree on practical proposals to be presented to the Arab summit meeting this evening for approval.

It is worth noting that the drafting committee is made up of the foreign ministers of Morocco, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine.

More on Agreement Delay

NC2505182689 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpts] Casablanca, May 25 (AFP)—Arab League foreign ministers failed Thursday to agree on a solution to the Lebanese crisis, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said, as the issue dragged an Arab summit deeper into extra time.

Mr. 'Aziz emerged from a four-hour closed-door meeting to make a new call for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from civil-war stricken Lebanon.

Ministers decided to form a four-country committee, grouping Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt, to draft a statement on Lebanon, according to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and other officials.

But Mr. 'Aziz said the committee would merely present options to Arab leaders for further consideration later Thursday. "Debate is still going on about a proper solution to the Lebanese issue but there isn't any agreement."

Pressed on the nature of the options, he replied: "The main option is the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. If that option is not achieved, there will be no solution to the Lebanese problem."

Mr. al-Shar' was visibly tense and left the meeting room. The Syrians have been under great pressure from some Arab countries led by Iraq to make concessions on Lebanon, according to delegation sources.

Lebanon has dominated debate at the emergency summit, which was to also pass resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Despite a lack of consensus on Lebanon, Arab League officials said the summit closing session was still likely to be held Thursday night. The meeting of the 22-member Arab League was to have ended Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Reliable sources here said Kuwait, which has chaired the special Arab League committee on Lebanon, was giving up the post in the current deadlock. [passage omitted]

Discussions on Lebanon Cited

NC2505211489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 25 May (MENA)—During their first session today, which lasted for 3 and ½ hours, the Arab foreign ministers engaged in exhaustive and heated discussions.

At the beginning of the session, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi outlined the concepts and proposals presented by Arab leaders at yesterday's session, which continued until the early hours of this morning.

MENA has learned that Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, suggested that an Arab force, financed by Arab countries, be formed to supervise the cease-fire in Lebanon.

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' offered two options: an appeal for a synchronized withdrawal of both Israeli and Syrian troops, in which case the Arabs would have placed Syria on equal footing with Israel; or an agreement to let Syria complete its role in Lebanon until a legitimate government and constitutional institution have been established.

The second option was approved by Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, later presented the six-man committee's concept of a solution to the Lebanese problem. He described the committees' task as having been very difficult, noting that its members' lives had been threatened.

Shaykh al-Sabah added that the committee members had made every possible effort, proposing that an ad hoc committee be formed to enable the Lebanese constitutional institutions to perform their duties and reconcile the parties to the dispute.

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Syrian troops should pull out from Lebanon. Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' described the Syrian presence in Lebanon as "legitimate," adding that Syrian troops are in Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese Government and that the Amman summit endorsed the continuation of the Syrian forces' mission in Lebanon.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, interjected here with "a point of order" and noted that discussions had been underway for several hours with no substantial progress. 'Abd al-Majid proposed the formation of a drafting committee to formulate practical proposals to resolve the Lebanese issue.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, then requested the right to take the floor, although the discussions were closed at that point, and said that based on the PLO's experience in Beirut and his knowledge of the Lebanese situation, he had a practical proposal to make. He went on to suggest a withdrawal of troops from "greater Beirut" so as to give the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies the opportunity to meet and elect a Lebanese president, thus opening the way for the

restoration of constitutional institutions. Qaddumi also endorsed the proposal to form Arab forces to keep order in Beriut. One of the ministers proposed a meeting of the Lebanese parties at one of the Lebanese Embassies abroad. The proposal was not approved. The meeting concluded with the formation of a drafting committee consisting of the foreign ministers of Morocco, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine. The committee will submit its proposals to an expanded meeting of the foreign ministers which will then pass them on to the summit.

'Abd al-Majid Cited

NC2505184389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 25 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expounded Egyptian views on Lebanese issues at the Arab foreign ministers meeting still under way.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid called for a solution guaranteeing the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon. He also called for a committee to be formed under His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and with members whom he selects from either among the Arab heads of state or the Arab foreign ministers. [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 25 May carries a similar report specifying the task of this committee as being "to follow up the search for a solution in Lebanon so as to establish legitimate power in the country and approve a program for political reform."]

The Egyptian proposal was made after efforts by the six-man committee on Lebanon reached a deadlock.

MENA has learned that the Syrian delegation participating in the foreign ministers meeting praised the role of the six-man committee but made no comment on the proposals made by Dr 'Abd al-Majid.

The main point of dispute within the conference remains the Lebanese crisis.

The Iraqi delegation led by Tariq 'Aziz called for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and the formation of regular Arab (?forces.)

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the problem is not the presence of troops in Lebanon. The Lebanese problem, he said, goes back to the 16th century. The Syrian foreign minister reviewed the historical background of the Lebanese problem, mentioning that in 1840, Druze-Maronite massacres more ferocious than the current fighting took place in 1840.

ACC Ministers Meet

JN2505113589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 25 May (INA)—Foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] met this morning in Casablanca. The meeting comprised Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Egypt; 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic; and Marwan al-Qasim, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

INA has learned that the meeting dealt with the topics that will be posed during the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, scheduled to be held here later today.

Agreement on Draft Resolution

NC2605064389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] According to reports from Casablanca, an agreement in principle has been reached on a draft resolution on the Lebanese crisis based on the Egyptian and Kuwaiti working papers. The draft provides for the following:

1. Affirming Lebanon's Arabism, territorial integrity, and independence. Any solution that does not take these three basic elements into consideration cannot represent a genuine solution to the Lebanese problem. The Arab framework is the natural framework for solving the Lebanese crisis.

2. Affirming the general Arab responsibility for the situation in Lebanon and the commitment of all the Arab states to positively participate together in discussing, studying, and submitting the necessary proposals for a solution as well as the required financial and political assistance.

3. Calling on all the parties involved in the Lebanese crisis to honor the cease-fire called for by the Arab League Council's 27 April 1989 resolution.

4. Forming a committee under King Hassan II composed of three heads of state. Their task would be to carry out the necessary contacts with the parties concerned in order to provide the necessary atmosphere to invite the members of the Lebanese chamber of deputies for a meeting—even outside Lebanon—to discuss a political reform document which will be submitted to all the Lebanese parties. This document would be regarded as a basis for national reconciliation. The Chamber of Deputies would approve this document at its first session. The committe's task would also be to supervise the withdrawal of forces from greater Beirut. After approval of the reforms document, the Chamber of Deputies

would elect a president of the republic. The president would form a government of national reconciliation which would abide by the reforms document.

5. Resolving to implement the above mentioned measures within a period not exceeding 3 months. The conference would be ready to meet after this period to consider what has been implemented and subsequent developments, if necessary.

6. Condemning the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon's territory and sovereignty; calling for implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 425 on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces to Lebanon's international borders; and supporting Lebanese efforts to bring about the implementation of the UN resolutions on the Israeli withdrawal.

7. Expressing great appreciation for the efforts of the six-man committee and praising the proposals and recommendations in its report.

Libyan Source Cites Lack of Progress at Summit

NC2605084189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 26 May (MENA)—A source of the Libyan Arab delegation participating in the Arab summit has stated the following: The conference's sessions are stumbling and have achieved no progress worth mentioning in their agenda. This stumbling has delayed the summit, stretching it beyond the date it was supposed to end.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Departs for Home

NC2505131589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The new development that has been reported about the Arab summit, which is convening in Casablanca, is the information that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the six-man Arab committee and Kuwaiti foreign minister, has left for his country after he had presented a report on the situation in Lebanon to the Arab leaders.

Al-Sabah Still in Casablanca

NC2505163389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to the latest reports from Casablanca, Shaykh al-Sabah, chairman of the 6-man committee and Kuwaiti foreign minister, is taking part in the Arab [foreign] ministers meeting. This is contrary to reports that he had left for Kuwait.

Syria's Al-Asad, Egypt's Mubarak Meet 25 May

JN2505215289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad visited at 1100 Morocco time, 1400 Damascus time, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic at the latter's place of residence in Casablanca.

At 1115 Morocco time, 1415 Damascus time today, they were joined by President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

During this meeting, they discussed the general Arab situation and the topics listed on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit.

After this meeting, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad was surrounded by reporters who asked his excellency the president a number of questions on Syrian-Egyptian relations and the situation in Lebanon. The answers provided by his excellency the president were as follows. [passage indistinct]

Further on Meeting

JN2605064089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Yesterday, at 1400 Damascus time, President Hafiz al-Asad visited Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, at his place of residence in Casablanca.

At 1415 [Damascus time], the Egyptian President arrived at Salih's residence. Discussions during the three-party meeting revolved around the situation in the Arab arena and its developments and the topics on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit conference.

After the meeting at the Yemeni president's residence, the president answered reporters' questions. The reporters' questions and the president's answers were as follows:

[Reporter] What does the president say after his meeting with President Mubarak?

[Al-Asad] Our relations go back a long way. We are comrades in arms and friends. As you know, we belonged at one time to the same army and state.

[Reporter] Have the old relations between you been a cause for more rapprochement, this with the knowledge that President Mubarak always takes pride in these relations, even in times of crises?

[Al-Asad] Certainly. You have heard the statements which I made in the past since the first day of President Mubarak's assumption of power. There is no need to repeat them because they represented an old personal relation between me and President Mubarak—a relation

of friends and colleagues at the same time. This means we are friends and we even belong to the same profession [air force pilots]. This relation must be all to the good, God willing.

[Reporter] How will the meeting with President Mubarak reflect on the joint Arab action?

[Al-Asad] Each of us is concerned about the joint Arab action. Whenever the Arab atmosphere is brotherly and good, it will reflect on relations among all Arab states. This was the spirit that prevailed over our discussions; and this is what I, and President Mubarak, expected.

[Reporter] Masses of the Arab nation pin great importance on this meeting. What do you expect for the Lebanese question, which is of interest to the Arab nation?

[Al-Asad] Regarding Lebanon, we are all interested in making Lebanon emerge from this tragic, abnormal situation in which it is living. It is a fraternal Arab country which we all care about, whether that means those of us here or the brother participants in the summit. We are making every effort to help find help for Lebanon. No matter what we do, we cannot replace the Lebanese citizens. We can help them to achieve peace, and the Lebanese parties must negotiate among themselves in order to find the formula suitable for them. This is because the Lebanese citizen is the one who will live under the Lebanese system, not us. Therefore, we work to help him. This is our direction and the direction of the conference as a whole.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, will you accept a withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Al-Asad] This matter is not under discussion. What we know is that, now, Lebanon is a country that has its own entity. When the situation becomes stable and a national unity government, which originates from reconciliation, is formed, there will be no problem between it and Syria. But, rather, there will be brotherhood, reconciliation, and accord.

Mubarak Comments on Arab Summit Issues

NC2505155089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpts] Casablanca, 25 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has asserted that during the meetings held so far to discuss the Lebanese issue, Arab heads of state arrived at an applicable decision. He explained that Arab foreign ministers will discuss three possible proposals, one of which will be referred to the summit later today. He pointed out that his summit speech emphasized that normal conditions can only be restored in Lebanon when the Lebanese are allowed to exercise their rights without any pressure. In this regard, he stressed that all foreign forces must withdraw from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on ongoing efforts to reconcile Syria and Iraq, the President told Egyptian reporters in his Casablanca quarters that the reconciliation will take a long time. He explained that the current dialogue is only a preparatory stage until relations are improved and freed from tension.

Commenting on Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said that he and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have made considerable progress in clearing the atmosphere. He expressed the hope that the future will witness further progress. He added that his meeting with the Libyan leader was held at the Algerian president's initiative. He said that they held a second closed meeting in which they discussed the past. He asserted in this regard that the Egyptian and Libyan peoples are linked by solid eternal relations.

The president was asked about Egypt possibly resuming diplomatic relations with both Libya and Syria. The president said that Libya has liaison offices instead of embassies. He added that he and leader Al-Qadhdhafi discussed many things and that he hopes further progress can be made concerning relations between Egypt and Libya.

As for reopening borders and running flights between Egypt and Libya, the president said that he and Col al-Qadhdhafi discussed many things and that this matter will also be discussed.

Mubarak was asked about the Arab summit resolution on forming an Arab force to maintain security in Lebanon and whether Egypt will participate in this force if it is formed. Mubarak said it is premature to talk about this, adding that he prefers that Egypt and Iraq be excluded from such a force. He noted that this matter will be left to Arab leaders.

Mubarak was asked whether the summit meeting will arrive at resolutions that can be implemented rather than mere recommendations and wishes. He replied by saying: This is actually why yesterday's session was held so late. We believe that the summit should issue a decision viable for implementation, not just words on paper. Mubarak said that if the summit came out with weak resolutions, the public will lose confidence in summits.

Mubarak was asked whether the reconciliatory talks in which he took part would be translated into diplomatic and economic ties in the future or if they would result in a short-lived reconciliation and stop at that. Mubarak replied by saying that the talks were useful and worthwhile, referring in this respect to African summit meetings which always manage to clear the atmosphere in the continent and end disputes among participating nations. He expressed his hope that Arab summit meetings will be held annually, following the African example, in order to remove misunderstandings among the Arabs.

Asked about the contribution of regional groupings to resolving current problems, Mubarak said that the regional groups have common interests but contributions to resolving political issues must be made on the level of all Arab countries, for such issues are of concern to all Arab nations. The groups, he said, are working under the umbrella of the Arab League and should not act individually in the search for political solutions.

Second Al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting Reported

JN2605054089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Casablanca—President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday continued his intensive meetings with Arab leaders on the fringe of the extraordinary Arab summit conference, which is currently being convened in the Moroccan city of Casablanca and which entered its 4th day.

President Hafiz al-Asad received at 2100 Damascus time Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, at his excellency's place of residence in Casablanca. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended.

The conversation revolved around the proceedings of the extraordinary Arab summit conference.

At 2345 Damascus time, President Hafiz al-Asad received at his place of residence in Casablanca PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Faruq Qaddumi, Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], and Sulayman al-Najjab. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

During the meeting, the conversation revolved around Arab issues.

'Text' of King Husayn 24 May Summit Speech

JN2505131289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 May 89

["Text" of speech by King Husayn at the Casablanca emergency Arab summit on 24 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear brother, your majesty the chairman of the conference; brother majesties; highnesses and excellencies; gentlemen delegation members:

You have my best greetings; I am delighted to be with you in this auspicious Arab gathering on the soil of this hospitable Arab country. It gives me pleasure, your majesty brother chairman, to express to you and to the government and people of brotherly Morocco my deepest feelings of gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality and care that you have shown since our arrival in your dear country.

We also take this opportunity to thank you for your blessed efforts that have resulted in this assembly to deliberate and consult among ourselves for the good of the causes of our nation. We hope that our meeting will, God willing, produce positions and resolutions that embody the legitimate hopes and yearnings of our peoples to advance the higher interests of our glorious Arab nation.

On this historic occasion, I take particular pleasure in welcoming his excellency, our elder brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who has taken his place among us, in our ranks, and in our hearts, representing the genuninely Arab people of Egypt, who have made demonstrable and generous contributions to their nation and its just causes. Egypt's return to its natural role at the heart of its nation should enrich the march of the nation, consolidate its forces, and add a new ray of hope. You are most welcome, dear brother, in the midst of your folk and kinsmen. And welcome to your great country and your old Arab people as a gem in the midst their glorious nation.

Dear brothers: We meet today as the stirrings of progress and success in the march of common Arab action have been growing and strengthening since the summit of accord and reconcilation was held in Amman in November 1987 and the Algiers summit in June 1988. What we have achieved since then makes us proud and hopeful for the future. One of our achievements has been Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire and UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as a result of the steadfastness of brotherly Iraq and its adherence to the will of peace and its decisive success in the field. Another of our successes has been the entrenchment, continuation, and growth of the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] against injustice and occupation and the admirable integration between the heroic Palestinian people in the occupied land and their wise, enteprising leadership represented in the PLO.

This period has also seen the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. Together with the Gulf Cooperation Council the two have constituted additional contributions to the common Arab effort that unites us in the parent organization of the Arab League. We are confident that these and other positive developments are bound to speed up the process of integration and cohesion among our states and peoples that are necessary to maintain Arab security and to promote the interests of the nation in the face of contemporary challenges and developments, especially those inherent in the key world blocs and the pace of the scientific and technological world. We are made more confident of the correctness of our cause and the inevitability of its success by the fact that we belong to one nation with one objective, a shared destiny, and an immortal spiritual heritage. Our nation possesses the manpower, resources, and position to qualify it to confront these challenges with confidence and success.

I am convinced that we can help our cause if we apply the requisite flexibility to the rules and frameworks that govern this collective effort through streamlining and adapting the systems whereby decisions are made in the institutions of collective Arab action. Accordingly, we think that it is high time the requisite amendments were introduced to the procedures of these institutions so that decisions are adopted by majority vote. This based on our conviction that the majority does not make a decision or take a stand unless it is for the good of the nation.

As I have already said, collective Arab action has been reinforced by the establishment of the three Arab councils. We in Jordan, just like our brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Iraqi Republic, and the Yemen Arab Republic, are keen in every step we make and line we take to make certain that the goals our council sets for itself and the policies it makes are compatible with the noble aims set out in the Arab League Charter and our nation's aspirations for strength, progress, and complementarity in all areas.

Your majesty; dear brothers: The central Arab issue in Palestine has made a crucial turning point that requires collective, clear, and tangible support from us. The blessed intifadah of our brothers, which has entered its 18th month against Israeli occupation, merits such support not only because it embodies the resolve of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate, national rights, but also in view of the achievements it has thus far made. Most notable of these has been the conviction it has caused in the world, particularly in American and Israeli circles, that there is no returning to the status quo, which Israel had sought to perpetuate.

By virtue of our sympathy and agreement with the Palestinian cause and our commitment to our pan-Arab responsibility, we moved to work to give visibility to the Palestinian identity and personality as well as reinforce the intifadah by disengaging ourselves legally and administratively from the West Bank in response to a general Arab policy, the demands of the Palestinian people and their leadership, and the requirements of the developing Palestinian struggle. If certain historical developments have coincided with the intifadah, the decision to disengage stands out insofar as it gave the PLO the chance to shoulder the prime and full responsibility according to its own will, which is the will of the Palestinian Arab people to work for regaining national Palestinian rights in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

This was followed by the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in the intifadah session that moved Palestinain political action to a new era that found expression in the resolutions of the PNC, including the announcment of the document that established the independent State of Palestine. The clarifications by brother His Excellency President Yasir Arafat of the State of Palestine and the PLO Executive Committee chairman before the UN General Assembly in Geneva have prompted many countries to recognize the Palestinian state and support the PNC resolutions. The new Palestinian position has gone a long way toward making the United States engage the PLO in a dialogue. There is no question that our total support for the PLO in the positions it adopts and policies it makes amounts to a pan-Arab duty, which we must articulate and to which we should commit ourselves under all circumstances.

In light of the realistic, constructive position taken by the Palestinian leadership, the Arab position will have thus been complete now that the PLO has met the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. This has clearly improved the prospects for the international peace conference based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and a resolution of the Palestinian question in all its aspects with the participation of the PLO as a key player representing the State of Palestine along with the other parties to the conflict and the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

We hope that the new U.S. Administration, which began a dialogue with the PLO in response to the PLO's positive, responsible position and to express its conviction of the need to achieve peace in the Middle East, will use its influence to change the Israeli position and make it more responsive to the requirements of achieving a just and comprehensive peace and that, for the sake of achieving that goal, it will cooperate with the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general out of its declared awareness of the danger posed by the absence of peace in light of the weapons of mass destruction possessed by countries in the region.

Brother majesties, excellencies, and highnesses: There is a bleeding wound and a continuing bloody tragedy in Lebanon, which has been going on for over 14 years. All the efforts during that ordeal have not succeeded in ending the sufferings of that dear Arab country and its fraternal people. The six-member Arab ministerial committee has exerted continuous, appreciated, and serious efforts. It has made diverse contacts with all the Lebanese forces to agree on a plan that will restore to the fraternal country its health, security, peace, national and regional unity, and full sovereignty over its territory.

Naturally, the permanent, comprehensive, and respected cease-fire should constitute the start of the work to achieve that end. The continuous violation of the cease-fire in Beirut is a very painful and deplorable matter. It can never be accepted, not only because it violates the Arab nation's will, but also because it is a savage attack on humanity in the tragedies it brings on the old people, women, and children—tragedies that break hearts and bring shame. It also reflects the madness of destroying the human and national self.

Therefore, we can only explain what is going on in Lebanon as an unconscious implementation of the plot of the nation's enemies, who aim to Balkanize the

eastern Mediterranean, beginning from Lebanon and then moving to other Arab countries in this region on the basis of demographics.

We have the right to wonder why, when all the Arabs and warring Lebanese sides agree on a cease-fire, this cease-fire will soon be violated while the fires are still blazing and the corpses are scattered in the streets and under the debris. If the Lebanese people are the ones who are paying a high price for this plot now, other Arab peoples will pay the price in the future if the Arab governments allow leave it to continue, one incident after the other. This cannot be allowed to happen under any circumstances.

Hence, our pan-Arab duty makes it incumbent on all the Arab states to work to end the present Lebanese tragedy for the sake of preserving Lebanon first and the Arab countries surrounding it second, according to the following:

1. Rejecting all forms and causes of fragmentation, thwarting the Balkanization plans the nation's enemies are promoting in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Arab homeland, and ending attempts to fan the fire of sectarian division and make Arab fight Arab.

2. Compliance with this Arab decision by all Arabs, their continued support and implementation of it, and their collective stand against any Lebanese party that might deviate from our Arab consensus, God forbid.

As for Lebanon, all its sons should be addressed in one tongue. Their direct meeting and dialogue should be secured under an agreed supervision that is accountable to us all so that whatever is necessary can be done to rebuild Lebanon on solid and lasting foundations. In this way we can attain all our aspirations to safeguard their national unity and independence and achieve their sovereignty over all their territory.

3. Concentration on the target of the withdrawal of all the occupying Israeli forces and the departure of the alien Iranian force from all Lebanese territories through a comprehensive Arab effort in which Syria plays its role side by side with its Arab brothers in a coordinated joint action, whether on the level of the Lebanese or international arenas. The UN Security Council and the Security Council's permanent member states should contribute toward this end.

4. While stressing that all the Arabs respect Lebanon's independence and full sovereignty over its territory, agreement will be reached on deploying joint Arab forces in Lebanon temporarily and for a specific period of time.

It is high time for the Arabs to assume the burden and responsibility of dealing with the situation being undertaken by sisterly Syria and its forces, which entered Lebanon in the first place to stop bloodshed and achieve Lebanese reconciliation. This will help concentrate efforts on evacuating the occupying Israeli forces and the alien Iranian forces from Lebanese territory in accordance with an Arab plan we will draft at this meeting. With the attainment of this objective, Syria will have performed its full duty toward Lebanon, itself, and its nation, considering it the closest sister of Lebanon. We will also all have the honor of helping Lebanon and serving it as well as helping Syria and serving it, our pan-Arab security, and the future of our generations with the help and will of God. Thus, we will end the tragedy of Lebanon and bury forever the evil of Balkanization that is threatening the Arab states in the eastern Mediterranean.

I am confident that what will help us crystalize this trend and render it a success is the fact that all the Lebanese brothers share the common objective of restoring their national unity and constitutional institutions and rebuilding Lebanon, benefiting from the past mistakes and taking into consideration the requisites of national balance.

Brother, your majesty the chairman: Almost a year has passed since the resolution on the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. Able, victorious Iraq has extended its hand for peace according to what is stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution No. 598. However, in spite of Iraq's goodwill and the efforts of the UN secretary general, Iran continues to maneuver, procrastinate, and block the process of negotiations to implement the clauses of this resolution. Hence, we believe in the need to make Iran, the sisterly Islamic state, understand that it should comply with the requisites of peace and good-neighborliness and embark on these negotiations in good faith to move from the state of cease-fire to a comprehensive peaceful settlement of all aspects of the conflict for the sake of spreading stability in the region and strengthening the bonds of Islamic fraternity among the region's peoples.

Additionally, we believe that Iran will be more responsive to this message once it has sensed the Arab nation's unanimity and full solidarity with Iraq in support of its honorable, just stand, which seeks a peace that will preserve the two sides' legitimate historical rights and lay down the pillars of good-neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs so that the region's peoples will devote their efforts to construction and discard forever the option of war or preparation for new military rounds. If it becomes clear and known that the Arab nation stands united against any new aggression against it, we will in fact be helping Iran and ourselves, when we save it and ourselves from sliding into the courses of the wilderness, forfeiture, and the squandering of resources and energies, which must be employed in the service of our Arab and Islamic peoples within a framework of cooperation, understanding, and loyalty to our nation's aspirations in progress, strength, and building.

Dear brothers, I have just presented some ideas on the urgent issues facing our nation, which demand the immediate attention of its leaders on the highest level.

This does not mean minimizing the size and importance of the other issues that are of interest to our people—such as development, the economic structure, national and food security, and the challenges posed by the international economic groupings. Our peoples also face issues of great, accelerating scientific progress; environmental protection; and providing the means for decent living, a better life, and a secure future for the coming generations.

In addition to this, we also face, collectively, the general political trend toward international detente, which is represented in continuous dialogue between the two superpowers to defuse regional zones of tension, including our issues in the region. This calls on us to make use of this trend to help us solve our causes in a manner that will guarantee our rights and interests, build bridges with both countries, and make us benefit from the atmosphere prevailing among them so that we can employ it to our benefit and to the benefit of our just causes.

As I said before, our nation is gifted by God Almighty with all the resources to allow it to follow the developments of the age, face the challenges of development, preserve itself, and protect national security and the distinguished civilized presence. I may not be exaggerating if I say that what we need is to join the effective collective resolve, which is determined to reach the goal with determination and resolution. We can achieve this with God's help if we make up our mind and pay the necessary attention to it.

I am confident that all of us can live up to the level of this aspiration and hope, which our nation and its future generations deserve. I pray to Almighty God to give us guidance and success and help us do what pleases Him.

Peace be upon you.

'Text' of 'Arafat's 25 May Arab Summit Speech

JN2605070889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1826 GMT 25 May 89

["Text" of speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Arab summit in Casablanca; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily we have granted thee a manifest victory: That God may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to thee; and guide thee on the straight way; and that God may help thee with powerful help. [Koranic verse]

Your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses: May I first of all express my profound thanks to my brother His Majesty King Hassan II, the man of large tasks and prominent role in reuniting the Arabs whenever the need for that intensifies—and how badly we need unity today. How badly we need unity and solidarity today in order to confront the challenges facing us as an Arab nation. Therefore, allow me, your majesty, to again thank your majesty and your brotherly hospitable people, and say: Thanks, thanks, and thanks.

May I also greet President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, welcoming through him the return of great Egypt to the fold of its Arab nation. Although Egypt has been officially absent from the Arab League for some time, it has never failed to feel the worries of its nation or shoulder its responsibilities toward the fateful pan-Arab issues. By its history, struggle, sacrifices, and role, Egypt has continued to be present in the Arab conscience and entity, whose future and history are linked to it and vice versa. This fact has always been present in the minds of the Palestinian people and their leadership, which restored its official relations with the Egyptian leadership at the end of 1983.

Your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses: The mammoth, popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising] has been going on for 18 months in our occupied land. It is still going on and even escalating, thus embodying the Palestinian Arab people's militant history that has continued since the beginning of this century. The continuation of the intifadah and its escalation to include all the towns, villages, and camps of our occupied territory and all the masses of our people—women, men, elderly, and children—in a firmly entrenched national popular unity have shattered the delusions of the Zionist occupiers who wagered on the perpetuation of their occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territory, the elimination of this territory's entity, and the liquidation of the Palestinian people and their national cause.

The heroic epics recorded by our masses in the occupied homeland are only an extension and continuation of the hardships and battles waged by the Palestinian masses and their revolution since this revolution's inception in 1965. There was the valiant resistance of the Zionist invasion in 1982; the steadfastness of the revolution's camps in Lebanon in the face of the siege of hunger, death, and destruction; and the continuation of the valiant Lebanese-Palestinian resistance of the Israeli occupation throughout the past 7 years, from the Israeli invasion in 1982 and until now, despite the large complications and difficult circumstances of our Palestinian and Lebanese kinfolk in Lebanon.

The aggressors and plotters against our people and their cause have imagined that the revolution's departure from Beirut and the attempt to besiege and pursue it in Lebanon, and the destruction and perpetration of massacres against the Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, Al-Miyah wa Miyah, Al-Rashidiyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Abu al-Usud, and Al-Ma'shuq camps would be an exodus toward loss, not knowing that that would be a return to the spring, the homeland, to the fold of the masses which proved that their store of struggle is inexhaustible and ceaseless. The Israeli military occupation authorities are using all their powers of repression and terrorism to strike at the intifadah, including deliberate killing with

live and rubber bullets, use of internationally-banned toxic gases, release of armed settlers against villages and camps, mass arrests, deportations, blowing up of houses, confiscation of lands, burning of crops, desecration of sanctities, and closure of schools and universities.

The Israeli crimes to date have resulted in the martyrdom of more than 760 people and the wounding of 40,000 others, including more than 6,000 disabled. Since the beginning of the intifadah, more than 50,000 men, women, old men, and children have been arrested; more than 2,000 houses have been demolished or closed off. This is in addition to the continuous blockade and constant starvation imposed by the Zionist occupation authorities against entire regions, as is the case in Gaza Strip these days.

Israel's crimes are largely condemned by the world community, including large circles of world Jewry and even some Israeli peace forces. The lie of Israeli democracy, which Israel continued to promote for many years, was also exposed, as was the nature of Israel as a racist, fascist state based on usurping the Palestinian land, annihilating the Palestinian people, and threatening the land of our Arab nation with aggression and expansion. Nevertheless, the extent of Arab and international confrontation of these crimes, and work toward ending them continued to be below the minimal required level.

It is regrettable that a superpower like the United States, for all its claims about its care for and defense of human rights, continues to defend the Israeli stand, dealing with the criminal and the victim on the same par. Through its biased stand in Israel's favor, the United States is blocking any UN Security Council decision to condemn these crimes, stop it, or impose sanctions against Israel. What have the Arabs done with the U.S. Administration? I leave my question unanswered.

Therefore, Israel does not stop committing these crimes because of this limitless U.S. support in all forms and in all fields. Indeed, Israel is escalating its practices and openly threatening to liquidate the PLO leadership and the intifadah [uprising] and is also preparing for operations of mass deportation to force the Palestinian people out of their land under the pretext that it fears the democratic threat represented by the survival of the Palestinian people and their growth over their land.

Once again, is it coincidence that this criminal Israeli escalation should come following Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to the United States or is it because of the U.S. Administration's ecouragement to Israeli rulers and their policies? The current criminal Israeli escalation against our people, children, women, and sacred places results from this serious U.S. policy in support of these Israeli crimes. This escalation now is a new challenge by the enemy government to the Arab nation's will and dignity.

Your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses: Despite all these sacrifices and suffering, our people's determination to continue the strggle has no limits. Our people are armed with a great militant heritage, relentless revolutionary will, firm national unity, and full rallying around the PLO, their national leadership and sole legitimate representative. They adhere to their aims determined by their popular revolution—namely, removing the occupation and attaining the national inalienable rights to return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state over their national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, God willing.

The lessons of the intifadah, however, are not only ones of steadfastness, heroism, and sacrifice. It also shows political maturity and produced a practical militant program that deals with the local reality and international circumstances with a high sense of responsibility. This helps gain increasing world support and respect for the intifadah and its political leadership, the PLO.

In light of the national upsurge and the international support brought by the intifadah, the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC] came to reflect the political maturity and realism that characterized the Palestinian struggle, the growth of the national Palestinian identity, and the ambition for national independence. It came to catch the historic moment, harmonizing between the goals of the Palestinian struggle and the Arab summit resolutions, and the will of the world community to achieve peace in our region on the basis of international legitimacy.

Thus, the latest resolutions in Algiers of the PNC, which declared the establishment of the Palestinian State, came in response to the Palestinian people's will for national independence. They came to put this goal in an achievable framework through the realistic national political program adopted by the PNC on the basis of Arab summits in Fes, Algiers, and Amman. These include Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem; placing these territories under UN supervision for a limited period of time after which the Palestinian people exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of their state on these territories; (?convening the international peace conference) on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; recognizing the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self determination and a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with the related UN resolutions; and ensuring the security and peace of all states of the region, including the Palestinian State.

This is our clear stand and reply to President Bush's letter. The PNC adopted these resolutions in an atmosphere of enthusiasm, unity, and democracy, which added to the respect and appreciation of the Palestinian people and their institutions by world public opinion.

These national and realistic resolutions gave strong motive to the struggle of the Palestinian masses against the occupation. They also opened new horizons for peace on the international scene.

The Palestinian peace initiative, which we declared from the rostrum of the UN General Assembly in Geneva last December, was in line with these resolutions and those of the Arab summits, especially the Arab peace plan adopted in Fes and the resolutions of the intifadah summit in Algiers. It was also in harmony with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and in response to the will of the world community. This initiative undermined all Zionist and U.S. excuses, and showed who wants just peace and who is seeking further destruction and wars and is acting to subjugate peoples and take away their freedoms and homelands.

As a result of this and of the support by the peoples and countries of our Arab nation [words indistinct] their recognition of the Palestinian State, the Palestinian stand, and rights enjoyed large world support, represented by the recognition by more than 100 world countries of the Palestinian State. Palestine was accepted as an observer at the United Nations, and the support it receives from the friendly Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the PRC, the nonaligned countries, the OAU, and the Islamic countries has increased. Important changes in the stands of West European countries, including the EEC troika committee, neutral European countries, and Japan, took place toward the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the international conference. I would like, specifically, to point out the advanced French stand, which emerged during my recent visit to France and my important meeting with President Francois Mitterrand.

As a result of all these developments, Israel's isolation, and consequently its internal and external crisis, have deepened.

As for the U.S. Administration, it announced its acceptance of holding a dialogue with the PLO. In spite of the fact that we responded to this U.S. step with the required seriousness and voiced during the official dialogue sessions and also during the bilateral contacts between our two ambassadors our stand in all clarity and also our desire to achieve a true and just peace, we—and I say it in all frankness—have not been met with the required response that would have been commensurate with the standing and role of the United States and with its big responsibilities vis-a-vis the issue of world peace and human rights.

Despite some positive indicators which took the form of accepting the principle of holding a dialogue with the PLO and some statements made by U.S. President George Bush and his secretary of state on the termination of the occupation and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, the U.S. stand has continued to be characterized by procrastination and by an attempt to gain time. It refuses to give a specific content to the term the political rights of the Palestinian people or to the meaning of the political rights of the Palestinian people. That is, it rejects the right to self-determination.

Moreover, it refuses to respond to specific proposals on making preparations for the international conference, including those on holding preparatory meetings among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council or to announce frankly the acceptance of the PLO's participation in the international conference.

Besides, the United States has continued to refrain from condemning Israel's crimes in the occupied territories and uses formulas equating the criminal and the victim. It has refrained from taking any stand on the public Israeli statements on liquidating the PLO leadership and cadres and prevents the adoption of any draft resolution by the UN Security Council condemning Israel or imposing sanctions on it.

At the same time, it is taking a stand rejecting the acceptance of the State of Palestine at the specialized international organizations and using all of its capabilities and influence to prevent this from happening. It is adopting a suspect Israeli Government scheme on elections designed to consecrate the occupation, attempt to abort the intifadah, and hamper the international efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement through the international conference. Nay, it is distributing and using maps that call the Palestinian territories Judea and Samaria.

We have rejected this conspiratorial scheme, just as our people inside and outside the occupied territories have rejected it, as it seeks to strike at and liquidate the intifadah and to fragment the unity of the Palestinian people into those inside and those outside the occupied territories. Besides, this scheme bypasses their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, by working to forge the will of the Palestinian people through elections that are envisaged to be held under the bayonets of the occupation. Moreover, the scheme seeks to abort the comprehensive solution and to circumvent the international conference idea.

Hence, we affirmed that the Israeli withdrawal and the placing of the occupied territories under international supervision to prepare for the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, including the holding of free elections, is the sound prelude for the attainment of a genuine, durable, and comprehensive settlement. We also affirmed that it is impossible to discuss a detailed and partial issue such as elections away from a comprehensive solution and an integrated peace plan, beginning from A and ending with Z, in which the elections will be viewed as a phase. This is envisaged in the Palestinian peace initiative, which has won the largest-scale of international recognition.

In this regard, we have referred to the Namibian example and to the possibility of having it applied in Palestine. Why did the United States accept such a plan in Namibia and put its signature on it a few months ago and oppose it in Palestine?

Brothers, your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses: The Palestinian peace initiative, considering the daily action and impact of the intifadah and steadfastness, has opened real vistas for peace, supported in this by the climate of international detente governing international relations and the agreement to resolve regional problems through peaceful means, as we have seen and see this happen in most regions of the world.

And here emerges the importance and unity of the Arab stand as well its moves in the international arena to support the intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative and to work to protect our people and terminate the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

I would like to say frankly to you that the Arab stand and its effect are below the minimum level required. Where is the use of the Arab influence and capabilities? Where is the use of Arab-U.S. and Arab-European political and economic relations in favor of the pan-Arab rights, including Palestinian rights?

I hope that the resolutions of your conference, our esteemed conference, will reflect an interest in the central Arab cause by forming a higher committee on the level of the summit under the chairmanship of the chairman of the summit and the membership of a number of Arab leaders or their representatives. The task of this committee should be to emphasize Arab commitment and the adoption of the Palestinian cause and rights, continue movement in the international arena to secure the convocation of the international conference, implement the Arab peace plan, and support the State of Palestine and the Palestinian peace initiative.

Within the framework of unifying the Arab stand, I renew the call for a meeting by the five Arab parties directly concerned in the international conference in order to coordinate and prepare for the convening of this conference. We are also looking forward to a serious Arab stand in which the Arabs use their influence with all international parties and forces to prompt the Security Council to adopt firm measures that end the savage Israeli repression against our people in the occupied territories, including the imposition of deterrent sanctions on Israel so that it would stop its crimes and terminate its occupation.

Brother majesties, excellencies, and highnesses, the continuation of the intifadah is one of the most important conditions for the continuation of action and influence in the international political arena. In order that the intifadah will continue, all requirements of its steadfastness should be provided to it and to the sons of the Palestinian people. Our people have provided the basic conditions of steadfastness represented by a solid national unity, a comprehensive support for their leadership and the PNC's political program and the document declaring independence, an organizational precision in administering their hard battle with the enemy and their allies on all levels and fronts, and their solidarity and division of morsels among the people of the camp, village, and city.

However, the long battle which has been going on for 1 and a ½ years, and which will continue until victory—God willing—despite the enemy's savagery and escalating repressive and terrorist measures, requires much from us and you. The intifadah has placed new burdens and responsibilities on the shoulders of the PLO. These burdens are daily increasing, especially since more than 750 martyrs have fallen during the intifadah and we are responsible for their families, in addition to medical treatment and compensations to more than 10,000 wounded, including more than 6,000 handicapped. We are also supporting the families of 50,000 strugglers arrested since the beginning of the intifadah. There are also the compensations paid to the industrial and craftsmen sectors and more than 2,000 families whose houses were blown up, demolished, or sealed. This is in addition to our responsibility toward 19,000 employees following the disengagement of ties with Jordan, and 4,000 employees and policemen who resigned their posts, in addition to the Jerusalem schools and private schools in the West bank and Gaza Strip. There is also the deficit in the budgets of the territories' universities, popular education, hospitals and medical requirements as well as the expenditure of the municipalities, village councils, trade unions, popular committees, and strike forces, including 55,000 youths pursued in mountains and valleys. There are economic losses, including agricultural losses as a result of destruction and impeded exports, particularly of citrus fruits, almonds, and oil. There are also losses resulting from the strike of more than 60 percent of our workers. Our workers' previous income of $660 million has dropped to $240 million annually. An almost continuous siege is imposed on several West Bank and Gaza areas. The rest of our workers are banned from work and the Israeli authorities boycott the Palestinian industrial and agricultural products.

There are also losses in tourism, particularly religious tourism, which amounted to $850 or $900 million. This means that our people's economic and material losses, apart from the human losses, have amounted to about $1.3 billion since the beginning of the intifadah. This is in addition to the exorbitant taxes of 38 different types which our people are forced to pay to the occupation, and the money the PLO spends on its institutions and departments and its information, military, social, and diplomatic activities. The PLO is also responsible for more than half a million Palestinians in Lebanon, who are living under difficult and hard conditions as you know. You are also aware of the suspension of the aid decided at the Baghdad summit, indicating that Saudi

Arabia and Iraq continued to fulfill their obligations throughout the period. Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Qatar covered about half of the period. I thank them all for that.

The intifadah summit conference in Algiers had decided to immediately pay $128 million to cover the expenses of the first 6 months of the intifadah. Do you know how much of this sum was paid? You know that none of it was paid. The Algiers summit conference also decided to allocate $43 million monthly for the intifadah. How much was paid of these sums a year after their endorsement? Nevertheless, I heartfully thank all those who donated and contributed to the continuation of the intifadah, particularly the brothers in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, and Libya, and those who helped us perpetuate resistance against the Israeli occupation. I thank all those who sent some donations to the intifadah fund and through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which is still suffering from a drop in its revenues for the refugees.

In the meantime, I thank all those whose circumstances prevented them from contributing to this. I appeal to some brothers whose circumstances prevent them from helping us to help us levy a liberation and intifadah tax from the sons of our people working in their countries. You may be aware of the fact that the size of the popular Arab donations has been curtailed to the minimum following the issuance of the financial resolutions at the previous Arab summit and as a result of these resolutions. The PLO does not know where much of the donations collected went and through which channels they were spent.

Excuse me for giving these details, leaders, but my great responsibilities toward my people, their cause, and their intifadah have placed me in an unenviable position. It suffices to indicate that I was forced to use the savings of the officers and soldiers in our Palestinian army as well as the pensions of the PLO's employees after having acquainted them with the bad financial situation we are experiencing. They thankfully agreed that I take the money and spend it on the requirements of the intifadah, not to mention the resultant accumulated debts.

When I say this, I do not deny our Arab nation's favor and role in our people's steadfastness in the face of occupation. We stand fast and challenge on behalf of our nation. We defend its territory and honor against a savage Zionist onslaught that targets all of our Arab territory. Therefore, we feel it is our duty toward our Arab nation to stand fast in the face of, and confront, its enemies. We also feel that it is our right to ask our nation for help, backing, and support; and for directing and employing Arab efforts and resources in the service of the battle of Arab destiny to which our Palestinian people contribute their blood and souls.

On that basis, on that basis, we see in fraternal Iraq's steadfastness and victory on our Arab nation's eastern flank and the maintainence of its efforts and energies a great moral and material backing for our people's cause and for our nation as a whole.

On the basis of our continuous call to achieve Arab solidarity and mass the pan-Arab effort, we welcome the establishment of the Arab regional groupings: The Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union. We see in these groupings positive steps to coordinate, unify, and integrate the Arab efforts, positions, and energies to serve pan-Arab issues on the path of achieving the comprehensive Arab unity.

While we endeavor to achieve Arab solidarity and reconciliation, we cannot forget the fraternal, pained Lebanon. The continuous bleeding in dear Lebanon, the tragedy which is currently ruining it, and the Zionist occupation of part of its precious southern region will remain open wounds in the body of the nation, especially since the Israeli-Zionist plot—in which, regrettably, certain Arab parties are involved—aim to divide Lebanon into sectarian cantons and expel the Palestinians from it to Jordan. You have heard Rabin's recent dangerous statement in which he said the Israeli red line will be moved from the Litani river to Wadi al-Tin, approximately 38 km to the north; and in which he also said that this region will be considered a region of Israeli influence, especially since a war scenario is being prepared in southern Lebanon in addition to the bloody tragedy in its middle and northern parts.

We have not moved as an Arab nation to save Lebanon from the conditions of fragmentation and usurpation it has reached—as was the case in Palestine in the past. Is one Palestine not enough in the body of the Arab nation? And, what is the effect of this sectarian monster on the neighboring Arab countries?

O Arab leaders, o Arab leaders; all internal and external factors, which encroach on Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and prevent the unity of its people, territory, and institutions, must be removed. Lebanon is an Arab responsibility. It must be protected and its independence, sovereignty, Arab character, and unity of its territory, people, and institutions must be preserved. Any external interference in its affairs must be prevented. We must work to end the fighting at once in Lebanon and make the decision that secures this objective before we lose the decision and then we will be really sorry.

On this occasion, we assert once again that the presence of part of our people in Lebanon is a temporary presence dictated by the circumstances that followed the occupation of our homeland. We have no demands or desires in Lebanon except to safeguard our camps and our people's security there within the framework of full respect for Lebanese sovereignty. Also, we want to help Lebanon and its people emerge from this crisis and whirlpool which is currently taking place on its soil.

On this occasion, I call on the Arab brother leaders to immediately form a high committee which should move to solve the tragic crisis that occurred between the brothers in Mauritania and the Senegal as soon as possible. I also wish to stress the importance of concentrating efforts to quickly convene the Arab-African summit conference in order to strengthen ties of cooperation and Arab-African joint action.

Your majesties, excellencies, and highnesses; our decision, our Palestinian people's decision is to continue their struggle until victory is achieved. Our people have prepared for a long, hard march and provided for it—from the chests and arms of their sons and their unity—all the power and energy for patience and perseverance to struggle. What remains after this is the role of their great Arab nation, its awareness of its duties, and its execution of its responsibilities toward the Palestinan people's intifadah and just cause.

God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise: They fight in His cause, and sally and are slain: A promise binding on him in truth, through the law of the Gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: That is the achievement supreme. [Koranic verses]

Revolution until victory. Together on the path toward victory, toward the liberated Jerusalem, God willing.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Rules Out PLO Visit to Damascus

JN2605101789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0900 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tunis, May 26 (KUNA)—PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi has ruled out a visit by a Palestinian delegation to Damascus in the near future.

Qaddumi, in a press statement published here Friday, said "There is no need for such a trip at present," while commenting on reports of a possible Palestinian delegation's visit to Syria to resume conciliation talks between the two sides.

Syrian and Palestinian Presidents Hafiz Al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat had twice met on sidelines of the extraordinary Arab summit conference currently in progress in Casablanca, Morocco following Algerian, Libyan and Moroccan mediation.

Tunisian daily AL-SHARQ quoted what it described as well informed sources as saying that clearing the atmosphere between the two sides is not an easy job due to the wide gap between them on a number of questions.

Al-Quds Radio Commentary on Baker Statement

JN2505165489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 MAY 89

["Political Touch" feature: "Father, Let This Cup Pass"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statements drew diametrically opposing reactions from the Zionist enemy and the PLO leadership. On the one hand we find sadness and anger, and on the other, pleasure and enthusiasm. What is it that the U.S. secretary of state said that caused such sadness and anger among the Zionists and pleasure and jubiliation among the PLO officials?

Last Monday, Baker stood before a pro-Zionist enemy American group and made a speech in which he stressed the following points:
1. Renouncing the unrealistic Zionist dream of Greater Israel.
2. Renouncing annexation and halting settlement activities.
3. Approaching the Palestinians as neighbors deserving political rights.
4. Ending the Arab boycott of Tel Aviv.
5. Amending the PLO Charter.
6. Initiating dialogue between the Palestinians and the Zionist entity leaders.
7. Emphasizing the positive plan of Shamir, which deserves a constructive attitude from the Arabs.

No sooner had the media published these remarks than the Zionists began making their mad utterances, first the prime minister, the terrorist Shamir; then the terrorist Rabin, the war minister and the Labor Party representative in the Zionist coalition; and finally the terrorist Arens, the foreign minister. This is in addition to the grief permeating the press, magazines, radios—all the Zionist media, and international supporters of the Zionist entity.

On the other hand, no sooner had Baker made his remarks than pleasure and jubilation spread among the upper echelons of the PLO. Speakers vied with each other in highlighting Baker's statement as strongly worded—as Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh noted; or as a positive step—as Bassam Abu Sharif stated. This jubiliation took a practical form when the PLO leadership, through Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman in Tunis, dissociated itself from the fourth point in Call No 40 of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, which, in brief, notes the need for the Palestinians to defend themselves against the crimes of the Zionist settlers.

Do Baker's remarks deserve all this jubiliation from the PLO leadership? Do they deserve all this anger from the Zionist entity's leaders?

To answer these two questions, we would like to analyze and discuss Baker's statement calmly and objectively, point by point.

1. Baker's call to the Zionists to renounce their dream of establishing Greater Israel from the Nile River to the Euphrates River is neither a great triumph nor a glorious deed. Greater Israel is essentially a dream, an illusion. The call to abandon this dream is tantamount to recognizing it. It is like telling the sleeper not to dream. These are baseless visions, opposed to the values of life, truth, and faith, and are opposed to the simplest and most basic desires for international peace. We do not find that anything Baker said in this regard should anger the Zionists or please the PLO leadership unless this leadership, God forbid, recognizes this Zionist dream.

2. Baker's call to renounce annexation and refrain from building settlements is like asking the thief to steal jewelry, cash, and everything in the house but to leave the empty safe alone. It is like asking the murderer to kill the children, the boys, and the young but to spare the elderly. Moreover, this call represents the recognition of the Zionists' right to a land that is not theirs and a homeland that does not belong to them. Is it logical to ask the usurper of my house to build another story over it so that I might forget the root, which is the truth, and occupy myself with the branch, which is falsehood? Does this please the PLO leadership and hurt the Zionist enemy?

3. Baker's call for dialogue with the Palestinians as neighbors deserving political rights is an embodiment of the Zionist demands, which reject negotiations in which the PLO plays any role. In other words, this call means keeping the PLO out of the settlement process, promoting the terrorist Shamir's initiative, rejecting the establishment of the State of Palestine, and substituting for the concept of a state—even though in accordance with the current logic of the PLO leadership—the concept of so-called political rights, which is much less than even the Camp David agreements stipulate. Does this please the PLO officials and anger the enemy leaders in the Zionist entity?

4. Baker's call on the Arabs to end their boycott of the Zionist entity means ending the Arab-Zionist struggle. It means recognition by all Arabs that Palestine has gone forever. It means normalizing various kinds of relations with the Zionists and breaking the isolation of the Zionist entity in the Arab and international spheres. And last but not least, it means hoisting the flag of surrender over all Arab balconies, cafes, and clubs. Does this infuriate the enemy? Does this give the PLO leadership pleasure and jubilation?

5. Baker's call for a constructive Arab attitude toward the terrorist Shamir's plan is a call for stopping the great, blessed intifadah [uprising]. It is a call for destroying the Palestinian people's identity, changing the Palestinian Charter decisively and for all time, implementing all of the Zionist conditions, obliterating the pan-Arab dream of liberating Palestine, and fulfilling the Zionist national dream of a Greater Israel—a dream that we have just described as a sleeper's vision. Has this pleased Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Bassam Abu Sharif? Has this prompted Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman to dissociate his leadership from Point 4 of the intifadah's Call No 40 not to spoil the effect of Baker's statements or stain the velvet cup that is raised in the White House? Has this caused the Zionists grief and anger? Has it made them brandish sticks angrily at Mr James Baker?

Between one side and the other we find a mysterious paradox. However, both are poured into the same cup, the cup of bitterness and humiliation. As for us, we cannot but say: Father, let this cup pass from our lips. We can only say that the glorious uprising is the only one that can reject this cup and remove it from our lips, our hearts, and our eyes. God is most gracious, most responding. God is with us, victory is close, and together we march on the road to liberating land and man.

Egypt

Interest Rate Increase To Cause Price Hikes

JN2505105789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 May 89 p 1

[By Mahmud 'Abd al-'Azim]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has received reports warning against a hike of 15 percent to 20 percent in the prices of consumer and intermediate goods during the next 3 months as a result of a 2 percent increase in interest rates. The reports stressed that increasing interest rates on loans will increase the cost of production, and the companies importing foodstuffs will finance their imports from bank loans. The reports stressed that these companies borrowed 1.5 billion pounds with a 30-million pound interest rate which will be collected from the consumer. The reports said that the prices of the industrial sector's products have increased as a result of the increase in the interest rates and the hike in the price of the dollar, especially since these companies import at least 40 percent of their raw materials with bank loans. In the meantime, the prices of most of the electric appliances and products of the Ideal Company went up as much as 30 percent during the past few days.

Government Offers Higher Prices to Wheat Farmers

NC2505215489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1823 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, said today that the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade will undertake to buy the wheat crop directly from farmers, sidestepping middlemen, and deliver it immediately to public sector mills.

Following a meeting with Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab, minister of supply and internal trade, Wali said that the Supply Ministry will purchase wheat at the price of 60 Egyptian pounds per ardeb [approximately 5.6 U.S. bushels]. This is 15 pounds more than the previous price of 45 pounds per ardeb.

Mubarak To Submit Proposal to Paris Summit

NC2505212289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and director of the World Food Council [WFC], has said that President Mubarak will put a proposal to the summit meeting of the industrial countries due to be held in Paris next July. He will ask these countries to write off a proportion of the debts owed by developing nations to enable the latter to finance their development efforts.

At a press conference held today, at the conclusion of the WFC meetings in Cairo, Dr Wali said that the Cairo declaration which was issued by the council stresses the need for an executive apparatus to implement the previous resolutions of the WFC. He added that Egypt will look into ways of implementing the WFC recommendations as well as the Cyprus initiative to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Dr Wali said that peace is a precondition for peace and development. [sentence as received]. He urged the rechanneling of expenditure from arms production to development efforts in the Third World.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed on Regional Ties

PM2505103889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 May 89 p 4

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by unidentified correspondent in Casablanca; date not given]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] How would you describe the Egyptian diplomacy in the early days of the Arab League?

['Abd al-Majid] Egyptian diplomacy has always worked to serve Arab causes and to pursue the policy drawn up by President Mubarak when he assumed power in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

With the major development at the Casablanca summit, we now firmly feel that the Arab states followed Egypt's course of action in defending Arab causes, even during the period when our diplomatic relations with many Arab states were severed. They all realize that Egypt did not abandon its pan-Arab role, but performed it under difficult circumstances, and that Egypt has performed, and continues to perform, its role in defending the major causes of the Arab world, at the forefront of which are the Palestinian issue and the Iraq-Iran war.

Events at the foreign ministers' meeting on 21 May were undoubtedly sincere, especially the speeches by the foreign ministers, including the Syrian foreign minister, which reflected a feeling of satisfaction and an optimistic view of the future. And I believe there is no need to look at the past. Even if we recall certain negative aspects of the past, the important thing is not to repeat the past.

[Correspondent] When will diplomatic relations with Syria be resumed?

['Abd al-Majid] The issue has not yet been discussed, and on the basis of the contacts that have been made, relations between us and Syria are friendly, and we hope for the best.

[Correspondent] Will the opening of the embassies and consular work be delayed?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe that it is not yet time for this, but anything is possible.

[Correspondent] Egypt maintains a clear stance on the Lebanese issue. How will you deal with it at the summit level?

['Abd al-Majid] We foreign ministers did not interfere in the Lebanese issue. Even the six-man summit has referred its report to the summit. Egypt supports all the efforts made by the six-man committee and wishes it success.

[Correspondent] Which of the proposed solutions for resolving the Lebanese crisis does Egypt support?

['Abd al-Majid] Any solution that leads to the attainment of peace and an end to the bloodshed in Lebanon. That is the most important thing which we seek.

[Correspondent] How will Lebanon be represented?

['Abd al-Majid] There is an invitation for Michel 'Awn and Salim al-Huss to attend, and I hope that this will be decided at the first meeting of the summit.

[Correspondent] With regard to the Palestinian problem, what new ideas will the Arab leaders put forward with regard to support for the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising]?

['Abd al-Majid] What is being proposed to the summit is that it adopt a resolute stance by supporting the Palestinian National Council resolutions adopted in Algiers last November.

[Correspondent] With regard to the election proposed by Yitzhaq Shamir, how should the Arabs approach it?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt has stated its opinion on that issue. Matters must be made clear and their objective and that of the elections must be defined. All we want to stress is that the elections must be held in an atmosphere free of violence and terror.

[Correspondent] The Palestinian delegation to the summit has called for a meeting of the frontline states to coordinate and prepare for the international conference. Do you believe that such a meeting can be held?

['Abd al-Majid] Yes, and Egypt supports it.

[Correspondent] Is it not too early to prepare for a conference which is still a long way off?

['Abd al-Majid] We must act as though that conference were to be held tomorrow. Good preparation is necessary. We must not act as though the conference were not to be held for a long time or neglect preparations.

[Correspondent] Egypt has unique experience in dealing with the Israeli negotiator. What advice do you believe the PLO should follow in that regard?

['Abd al-Majid] We place all our expertise at the Palestinian brothers' disposal and are ready for any cooperation.

[Correspondent] With regard to the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], is there any intention of holding a summit meeting of it in Casablanca?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe so, in view of the presence of the leaders of the ACC states [in Casablanca].

[Correspondent] What is the objective of raising the Iraq issue and the situation in the Gulf? Is it to approach the international community with an Arab position, or is it something else?

['Abd al-Majid] The objective is to back Iraq's position and urge Iran to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

[Correspondent] Does that mean that you will ask the UN Security Council to discuss the issue again?

['Abd al-Majid] There are peace talks, and we hope that Iran will respond to international peace calls.

[Correspondent] How do you view cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union with a view to resolving regional problems, especially that of the Middle East?

['Abd al-Majid] It is positive cooperation, and the meeting held in Moscow between Eduard Shevardnadze and James Baker was useful and important. Both sides have briefed us on what was discussed at the talks.

[Correspondent] When will you visit Britain, and what do you want to discuss there?

['Abd al-Majid] This visit is at the invitation of British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe after his visit to Cairo. It a will start on 5 June 1989, God willing. Of course, its aim is discussion of bilateral relations and the Middle East question. We maintain with Britain relations of friendship, cooperation, and understanding, and I hope that the visit will be successful.

[Correspondent] How do you view the development in the British position on the Middle East problem and toward the PLO in particular?

['Abd al-Majid] We are hoping for and looking forward to a greater role, and they are making praiseworthy efforts in that regard.

[Correspondent] Do you expect a Libyan-Egyptian reconciliation on the sidelines of the summit?

['Abd al-Majid] There is no disagreement between us and the Libyan people. Our disagreement is with the Libyan leadership, which tries to interfere in our internal

affairs. Recently there have been signs of a suspension of media campaigns, and the matter depends on the atmosphere and the stances which will occur at the extraordinary summit.

Commentary Examines Return to Arab League

NC2505145189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 25 May 89

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Egypt Returns to Its Three Domains of Activity"]

[Excerpts] When President Husni Mubarak took on the post of president in 1981, Egypt's relations with the Arabs were severed or, at best, frozen. This was unacceptable, both in form and practice. Considering its importance, status, and leading role in Arab, Islamic, and African circles, Egypt could not accept isolation from these circles. Such isolation would mean restriction of its effective international role and its intellectual, political, and leading influence within these circles. It was difficult for all Egyptians to see their country officially estranged from the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. It was equally difficult for Egyptians to see their country's relations with the OAU reduced to its lowest level since the establishment of the organization.

We were aware that underlying this rift were factors primarily arising from the bigotry marking the dialogue between Egypt and the aforementioned circles. Indeed, Egypt must take an equal share of the blame for that. Egypt had its differences with Arab, Muslim, and African countries over its political approach after the October 1973 war and the Camp David accords. A more rational and flexible spirit could have prevailed among the various parties when it came to dealing with the underlying causes of the misunderstanding about the concept of peace. Instead, the spirit of bigotry got the better of the parties, dragging them into attempts at one-upmanship. The resulting deadlock ultimately made Arab, Muslim, and African countries drift away from Egypt.

When President Mubarak took office, he had to take a second, urgent look at all these matters. Applying his military knowledge, he adopted the approach of the wide-scale maneuver. He approached African circles, which were less insistent than the Arab and Muslim circles. Through patience, flexibility, and a civilized intellectual dialogue, he succeeded in opening the door to cooperation and positive involvement in the various African issues. Gradually, he succeeded in eliminating the causes of the dispute and reestablished a solid foundation for Arab-African relations. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak then turned his attention to the Islamic circle, investing all Egyptian capabilities, heritage, and prominent role in the Islamic arena. He opened Egypt's doors to the sons of sister Muslim countries, giving them access to the rich resources of the honorable Al-Azhar, the minaret of the Islamic call. He backed and supported all the political issues of interest to the Muslim world. Ultimately, a delegation representing the ICO arrived in Cairo to announce Egypt's reinstatement in the organization, so that it could assume the role which no other country can play.

We finally come to the Arab circle, the central point of action. President Mubarak's role in this circle had been fraught with hardships, misunderstandings, and accumulated bigotry. His first decision as president was to halt all media campaigns against Arab countries, whatever the circumstances. He played a genuine Arab role in all urgent issues. He backed the PLO in its most difficult situation, during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Despite attacks against Egypt by certain Palestinian factions, he supported the PLO's political moves. He was objective in his stand on the Lebanese crisis, backing the legitimate authority and taking care not to harm Lebanese integrity. He offered all possible assistance to Iraq in its war with Iran. He declared his concern over the security and safety of the Gulf countries and his willingness to defend them against any foreign threat.

Thus, the Arab countries realized that they should resume their relations with Egypt. The Casablanca emergency summit had to give the Egyptian seat back to its lawful owner in all respect and appreciation for Egypt's constructive role in all Arab issues.

In his 8 years in office, President Mubarak has thus succeeded in returning Egypt to its natural place in Arab, Islamic, and African circles. He has also turned, forever, a painful page in Egypt's modern history.

Editorial Opposes Use of Firearms by Uprising

JN2505105189 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 May 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Development that Requires Careful Study"]

[Text] When the sons of the occupied Palestinian territories began their intifadah [uprising] against the sinful Israeli occupation more than 18 months ago, their only weapons were, and still are, stones. Children and young boys, who possess nothing but the weapon of right and legitimate demands, have been using stones to pelt an enemy that uses the most modern arms of death and destruction against defenseless people.

This heroic action by the sons of Palestine gave them the sympathy of world public opinion and led to a comprehensive denouncement of the brutal Israeli reaction to children who own nothing but stones with which they express their absolute rejection of the occupation of their land. The revolution of the stone-throwing children became a national epic and a popular legend glorified by freedom advocates throughout the world.

It was noted, however, that some sons of the occupied territories have begun replying to the bullets of the occupation soldiers with similar bullets. They may have

an excuse as they see with their own eyes their brothers being killed or wounded every day by the ever-intensifying Israeli gunfire. But this development in the revolution of stones may have consequences contrary to the interest of the intifadah or the world sympathy toward it. It may also give the Israeli authorities another excuse for stepping up their revengeful measures against the revolutionary people, whose circumstances, and the isolation which Israel imposes on them by steel and fire, do not allow them to obtain the appropriate weapons to confront any other measures that the occupation forces may take to deal with the new situation.

Before things turn into unequal battle—by all standards—between a government thirsty for blood in its attempts to suppress a popular revolution by all means and the sons of the occupied territories, who live under tough and inappropriate conditions, and who are isolated from the world behind a sinful iron barrier, we hope the Palestinian leaders, especially the PLO, will study everything related to this new development. This development is aimed at retaliating against the crimes of the occupation soldiers and Jewish settlers. We also hope that the Palestinian leaders will make the appropriate decision that maintains the steadfastness of the intifadah and prevents Israel from going far in its massacres under the pretext of reacting to the bullets of the people of the occupied territories.

Mauritania

French Foreign Minister Arrives in Nouakchott

AB2505180589 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Amid reports of ethnic skirmishes inside Mauritania between Moors and the black population, France's Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is in Mauritania in an apparent attempt to mediate in the dispute with neighboring Senegal. The window of opportunity seems to have been opened by the holding of this week's Francophone summit in Senegal. But the skirmishes have led to a fresh influx of refugees from Mauritania. From Dakar, Mark Doyle reports:

[Begin recording] The situation is tense all along the Senegal River. International and nongovernmental organizations working there report that the main source of tension continues to be the departure from Mauritania of black African Mauritanians until now settled on the northern side of the border. But there has also been one report of a small group of Senegalese crossing to the Mauritanian side of the border to mount some sort of an attack. Some sources say the Africans arriving in Senegal have been asked to leave by the mainly Arab Mauritanian authorities. Others say unequivocally that they have been expelled under force of arms. What is certain is that up to 5,000 Africans who had lived in Mauritania have arrived on the Senegalese side of the border. According to one source, in the last 2 days, over 800 people came across the village of Klakane. They are now being looked after, as the source said, by Senegalese authorities in the town of Tiliboubacar.

There have been several reports of villages on the Mauritanian side of the border being completely emptied of their people. Clashes on the Mauritanian side between white and black Mauritanians have also been reported. Some of the tension appears to have been exacerbated by basically criminal acts such as livestock theft. There have been no reports of direct clashes between the armies of the two countries, although they are certainly present in the area in unusual numbers. It is difficult to gauge the attitude of the Senegalese Armed Forces in this affair, but an indicator of their line against Mauritania came recently when the Army organized a press conference at a barrack just outside Dakar of black Mauritanians who said they have been expelled from their country. As the Army looked on, the speakers at the press conference were permitted to accuse the Mauritanian president of being a criminal who wanted to liquidate black Africans. [end recording]

Recieved by Taya

AU2505195989 Paris AFP in French 1407 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 May (AFP)—French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas [words indistinct] GMT in Nouakchott where he was immediately received by Mauritanian Head of State Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya with whom he was expected to have lunch. Mr Dumas stated on his arrival from Dakar, where he is taking part in the proceedings of the Francophone summit, that he was on a special mission at the request of President Francois Mitterrand [words indistinct] the importance of relations. The French minister's mission is part of mediation attempts of the Senegal-Mauritania conflict.

Furthermore, Malian Interior Minister Colonel Issa Ongoiba arrived this morning in Nouakchott by road via Dakar and is expected to be received by the Mauritanian head of state, it was learned from reliable sources. Mali has begun a mediation move in an attempt to solve the Mauritania-Senegal conflict. The Malian head of state, General Moussa Traore, who is also the OAU chairman, went to Nouakchott and Dakar in this regard. In addition, Bamako hosted a meeting between the Mauritanian and Senegalese interior ministers, Djibril Ould Abdellahi and Andre Sonko.

Sudan

SPLA Accused of Cease-Fire Violations

NC2505180889 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, May 25 (AFP)—Senior Sudanese military staff have accused the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of breaching three times the unilateral ceasefire agreement it declared throughout May.

The Armed Forces weekly, AL-QUWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH, said Thursday rebels tried to ambush government troops at Kadoke in Equatoria Province on May 1, but were repelled.

Heavy fighting in the region occurred on May 4, it added. On May 8, SPLA gunners fired shells in the Tagdiar region in south Sudan and tried to strengthen positions by digging trenches. The Army foiled these efforts, it said.

One soldier and two civilians were killed in the clashes, while five civilians were wounded, the weekly added.

Spokesman on Banning Reports on Armed Forces

NC2505180689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1356 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 May (MENA)—Dr Husayn Abu Salih, Sudanese minister of information and culture and the government's official spokesman, has pointed out that the interior minister's decision yesterday to ban news about the Sudanese Armed Forces in the newspapers and media was made at the recommendation of the cabinet. The decision, he said, aims to end what he termed the psychological war launched by the radio of the rebels led by John Garang. The radio reports are being published in some local newspapers. He noted that the statements made by the official government spokesman or the Armed Forces will be exempted from this ban.

The government's official spokesman said in this respect that whoever violates this decision, which had been made at the request of the Sudanese Armed Forces, will be brought to account in accordance with the emergency regulations. [passage omitted]

Further on Regulations

EA2505194789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 May 89 (SUNA)—Dr Husayn Abu Salih, the government's official spokesman, has confirmed the decree issued by the interior minister yesterday forbidding the publication of reports on the Armed Forces by the press and the local media, unless such reports emanate from the official government spokesman or from the Armed Forces spokesman. The decree also prohibited the publication of material broadcast by the rebel radio.

Dr Abu Salih said that the decree had been issued at the behest of the Council of Ministers to put an end to the psychological war being waged by the rebel radio, material from which some of the local papers were circulating. He said the decree did not apply to statements issued by the official spokesman of the government and Army. He said anyone contravening the decree would expose himself to legal procedures as stipulated by the emergency law. He said the Council of Ministers had issued the decree at the request of the Armed Forces.

Dr Abu Salih, who is the minister of culture and information, bitterly attacked the radio of Garang's movement, which he accused of waging a fierce psychological war against the Armed Forces with a view to destroying their morale. He said subsequent publication of what the movement's radio was broadcasting amounted to an unjustifiable promotion of lies aimed at belittling the Armed Forces.

He went on to say that the rebel radio was broadcasting its lies from a foreign territory and was constantly censuring the prime minister. It had therefore become necessary to issue the decree in order to protect the dignity of the government and to secure the morale of the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the Council of the Journalists' Union has called an emergency meeting to be held at its headquarters this evening. This is the first reaction to the interior minister's decree. [passage omitted]

Peace Committee To Meet With Garang 10 Jun

NC2505220189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2008 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 May (MENA)—The Sudanese Ministerial Committee for Peace today received a cable from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement containing the agreement of John Garang, leader of the rebels in southern Sudan, to hold a meeting with the committee in Addis Ababa on 10 June.

In stating this, Peace Committee Secretary Hammad Biqadi [title and name as received] described this step as positive and practical. He said it would open the way for the implementation of the peace initiative. He stated that the ministerial committee will continue its contacts with the movement in the future, before the joint meeting is convened, in order to find out the names of the movement's representatives to the meeting and, in light of this, to choose the committee's delegation. He emphasized that the ministerial committee has completed its preparations for the meeting and that another committee of legal experts has been formed to provide assistance to the committee in its work.

The peace committee secretary said that Garang is currently visiting the FRG and will address the FRG Parliament. He added that the Ministerial Committee for Peace has also sent Dr Bashir 'Ummar, minister of energy and mines, to the FRG for this purpose.

The MENA correspondent has learned that Dr 'Umar is expected to meet with Colonel Garang in the FRG to discuss the arrangements for convening the joint ministerial committee meeting between the movement and the Sudanese Government.

Darfur Region Peace Conference Planned

EA2505165789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA)—A peace conference of conflicting tribes, bringing together the leaders of the various tribes and groupings of the area, will be held in Al-Fashir, the capital of Darfur region, next week. This was announced by Fu'ad Id, the director of the tribal affairs center at the department of regional coordination and local government.

He said in a statement today that preparations were currently underway to convene the conference and means were being provided from both Khartoum and Al-Fashir to ensure its success. He said preparatory meetings would be held in Khartoum and a delegation of tribal leaders would proceed to Al-Fashir at the beginning of next week to join regional and local organizations in bringing about peace and laying down the necessary guarantees to ensure against the reoccurence of inter-tribal clashes and to restore normality.

Notably, during the past few days there have been clashes in Darfur between the Arabs and the Fur tribe involving firearms and other weapons, that resulted in the death of 453 people from the two sides and seven police men, and wounded [word indistinct] citizens. Mr Mubarak Abdullah al-Fadil the interior minister, went to Darfur region with a government delegation recently, after which the conflict subsided.

Meanwhile, Mu'hammad al-Ghali, the director of the emergency (?tribunals) in Darfur region, stated that the incidents in the region had taken place as a result of armed robberies. He said, in a statement published in today's AL-SIYASAH, that the emergency (?tribunals) and courts had gone to Darfur region on the instruction of the attorney general and the higher ministerial security committee in the region. They had been working for the past 2 months and had issued verdicts in 77 cases of armed robbery and possession of unlicensed firearms. They had accordingly issued sentences ranging from execution to prison terms and fines.

He said that recently the Darfur (?tribunals) had seized a Ford vehicle which was carrying arms and ammunition. It was not known where the vehicle had come from.

Mr al-Ghali stressed, in the context of the Fur and Arab tribes in the area which had been in conflict, that there were other Arab tribes in the area, the biggest of which was the Rizayqat, which had not been involved in the conflict.

Column Terms Al-Asad Iran Visit 'Conspiracy'

JN2505112389 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 May 89 p 2

["A Stand" column by Faysal Zaki: "A Visit and a Conspiracy"]

[Text] It is not strange to see the president of the Syrian regime paying an official visit to Tehran as announced by the official Syrian News Agency. The nature, size, and development of relations between Hafiz al-Asad's regime and the Iranian regime allow a large-scale exchange of visits, conclusion of agreements, hatching of conspiracies, and coordination of positions. Iranian delegations on different levels have not stopped visiting Damascus and the Syrian delegations have not stopped visiting Tehran to the extent that the Iranians openly declare that Damascus is their second capital.

What is strange is the timing of the announcement on the visit. The time smacks of conspiracy, exposes methods of blackmail, and shows the dimensions of the new maneuver. The timing coincides with the fixing of the date of the extraordinary Arab summit in Morocco. It is known that the Arab summit will discuss the challenges facing the Arab nation and its current issues, particularly the issues of Lebanon and Palestine. And Hafiz al-Asad is a basic and major party to the conspiracy on Lebanon and the Palestine question. Al-Asad is certain of the difficulty of his position inside the summit. Therefore, he waved the Iranian card hoping that this will ease the effect of Arab consensus on condemning his treasonous behavior and conspiratorial role, particularly since he has a long record of resorting to this cheap method of blackmail.

This is certainly what Hafiz al-Asad wanted from the announcement on his visit to Tehran. But, the schedule of the visit and the agenda of the discussions have many fixed titles. This will be Hafiz al-Asad's opportunity to renew his alliance with the Iranian rulers and to be reassured about the serious internal situation shaking his allies in Tehran. The visit is an occasion for Al-Asad to advise his allies to complicate the peace negotiations with Iraq. The visit is also an occasion to ask the Iranian rulers to continue the pressure on the Arabian Gulf states. It is an opportunity to seek support for his destructive scheme in Lebanon. The visit is also an occasion to discuss all methods to undermine pan-Arab security and decisive issues, particularly the Palestine question.

The agenda of the summit will be full of issues that concern the two parties. Despite this, the discussion will be interrupted by mutual censure. Hafiz al-Asad will blame his allies because they did not take his weight into consideration when they agreed on Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for a cease-fire and direct negotiations. Khamene'i and his clique will blame Hafiz al-Asad because he was late in condoling them in their bitter defeats at the hands of the Iraqis who succeeded after patience and steadfastness in burying the schemes of aggression and expansion. After the censure and downpour of bitterness they will discuss new conspiracies or develop the existing conspiratorial coordination in many fields and vis-a-vis many issues.

As a reminder only, we say that Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran will not be the first, although it will take place at the time of the Khomeyniite regime. Hafiz al-Asad had paid an important visit to the capital of rancor, racism, and aggression in late 1975. During that famous visit, he, accompanied by most of his ministers and advisers, exchanged speeches and toasts with the defunct Shah. He emerged from that visit with political, economic, security, touristic, and trade agreements, apart from grants and loans. The gravest result was represented by the Shah regime's blessing of the so-called Syrian initiative in Lebanon which began with the beginning of the Lebanese crisis in the first half of 1975. It was also represented by the understanding reached on a joint security role toward the Arabian Gulf region and finally by coordinating support for the Kurdish rebellion which collapsed following the signing of the Algiers agreement in 1975. Agreement was then reached to provide support and care for the cliques of rebellion in Damascus instead of Tehran.

How similar today and yesterday are! Many things have changed while Hafiz al-Asad has not changed. The same conspiratorial nature, the same evil course, and the same wicked aims and cheap games persist. The only difference is that Hafiz al-Asad is now uglier and at the same time further exposed and more insolent than before. At present he does not find a market for his trade in pan-Arab slogans and principles except in the most backward, fanatic, rancorous, and racist of countries in this age. This certainly means the beginning of the stage of bankruptcy and downfall on the national and pan-Arab levels. The Syrian Arab people and their national forces are required to expedite an end to the nightmare of al-Asad's tyranny and disgrace in retaliation for their dignity and honor. All the Arabs are required to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities toward besieging the scoundrel enemies and help the captive Syrian people get rid of their large prison, recover, and start their life amid their genuine pan-Arab environment.

Trade Minister Returns From PRC Visit 23 May

JN2305164289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih returned to Baghdad today at the conclusion of a visit to the PRC during which he attended the meetings of the Iraqi-Chinese joint committee for economic and trade cooperation and development, held in Beijing 18-22 May.

He told INA that joint minutes of trade and economic cooperation were signed during the meeting. The minutes provided for an increase and diversification of trade

exchange between the two friendly countries, participation in international fairs held in Iraq and China, and exchange of visits by trade delegations.

The minutes, he added, also provided for promotion of the relations of economic cooperation, contribution of Chinese companies to the execution of development projects in Iraq, exchange of experts and technicians, and training of Iraqi personnel.

The trade minister pointed out that he held meetings with the vice premier of the Chinese State Council and the minister of machine building and electronics industry during which they discussed ways to bolster and promote prospects of bilateral relations in the various fields.

He said the Chinese officials expressed a strong desire to contribute to the development process in Iraq to emphasize the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Officials Discuss Syrian Moves in Lebanon

IDF Readiness Said Unchanged

TA2605093589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Israel is anxiously following the developments in Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami informed us that the Cabinet discussed reports that Syria is strengthening its army in Lebanon.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has requested an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] report on the reinforcement of the Syrian forces in Lebanon that has taken place over the last 2 days and convened the Cabinet for a special session on the matter.

Defense Ministry officials said that according to information from Lebanon, an offensive action by the Syrian Army against the Christians in Beirut is impending. They would not divulge any details of these reports.

Minister Mordekhay Gur told us this morning that Israel would not interfere in Lebanon as long as its own security is not compromised.

Christian radio stations in Lebanon yesterday reported that the Syrian Army is preparing itself for a wide-scale offensive against the Christians and has renewed its reconnaissance flights over areas under Christian control.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 26 May adds that "Ra'anan Gissin, the IDF deputy spokesman, told foreign correspondents in Jerusalem that Israel is waiting to see if the changes in the Syrian Army's deployment endangers Israel's northern border or the Lebanese security zone. IDF sources, who wish to remain anonymous, claimed Israel had not raised the level of readiness among its forces along the northern border. These sources believe that Syria has no intention of attacking Israel from Lebanon, therefore it appears that the Syrian reinforcement does not warrant any concern at this stage.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said Israel is especially wary of any military operation in Lebanon as a result of past experience."

UN Notes No 'Abnormal' Activity

TA2605113989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 May 89

[Excerpt] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, says Israel is alert to all that is happening in Syria and Lebanon. He said that reports on Syrian preparations to move against the Christian settlements were very serious. He refused to say, however, what Israel's reaction would be if Syria did indeed attack the Christian enclave. Uri Lubrani was talking to our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Military sources in the north reported today that the Northern Command sector had not observed any out-of-the-ordinary movements by the Syrian Army. The sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the IDF is, as always, following the movements of the Syrian Army in the area with interest.

Our correspondent adds that the UN observers' headquarters in the north stated, in response to questions by correspondents, that the UN observers in the Golan Heights and Lebanon had not noticed any abnormal activity within the Syrian Army. [passage omitted]

No Direct Security Threat Seen

TA2605152389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 May 89

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem says that Israel will not intervene in Lebanon as long as Syria's moves in that country do not pose a direct threat to Israel's security. Observers in Jerusalem assert that Israel will grow more apprehensive if Syrian troops move to south Lebanon or if Syria changes the deployment of its surface-to-air missile batteries. [passage omitted]

Shamir Comments on Results of Spanish Trip

TA2505115489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A short while ago, MA'ARIV correspondent in Madrid Tamar Golan spoke with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who concluded his political meetings this morning. Here is an excerpt of that conversation:

[Begin Shamir recording] There was not full agreement with what we have proposed, because we did not start with a clean slate. Those countries set down their joint stands a long time ago, and these stands bind them. I think, however, that despite this, our contribution has some weight and significance, for several reasons: A. It introduces an element of doubt in their own stands. B. We have thus relayed messages to the Arab world—albeit unofficial ones—which we are unable to do directly. C. We had a chance to explain our position to the European people, who are important and whose attitude toward us is not, as is well known, very favorable. D. There is particular importance in uniting Jewish people in all the countries I have visited; its united stand in support of Israel's positions is very important. [end recording]

Rabin Seeks Palestinian Election 'Partner'

TA2505190389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 May 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Nisim Mish'al "after meeting President George Bush in Washington on 25 May"—recorded]

[Text] [Mish'al] The U.S. President addressed himself to the situation in the territories, asking you to decrease the violence in the territories. He said it was difficult for him to watch the pictures on television, that he does not like them.

[Rabin] It is not only the President who does not like the pictures. He indeed asked that we seek a way to reduce the clashes. This is, of course, something we have taken seriously and will continue to do so, since this is our goal too.

[Mish'al] The President asked you what will happen if a resident of the territories expresses support for the PLO.

[Rabin] First, the question was not posed this way.

[Mish'al] How was it phrased then?

[Rabin] The President asked several questions on who can be elected and what this person can express. I did not address myself to this at all. I answered the President that the main problem at the moment is not the details of the elections; the main problem is, first and foremost, finding a partner who will stand up and say that he is prepared to accept the outline of the Israeli initiative in principle. When such a partner is found, when he poses these questions, then we should discuss them. There is no reason for Israel to lay all its cards on the table today, before it is even clear that there is a Palestinian partner from among the residents of the territories who accepts the outline, and with whom the specifics of the elections could be discussed.

Missions Asked 'To Play Down' Baker Remarks

TA2605072989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 89 p A3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] A document which the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry sent to Israeli missions overseas yesterday emphasizes the positive aspects in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's speech at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). In consultations held in the ministry, it was decided to refrain from exacerbating the confrontation with the United States about the speech, and as a result, ambassadors and other heads of missions were instructed to play down the criticism leveled at Baker's comments on the integrity of the land and the settlements.

Instead, they were asked to highlight the support Baker expressed for the principle of a phased solution to the conflict, as well as the U.S. Administration's firm support for the election plan, which is supposed to be the first stage in the resolution of the conflict.

Jerusalem political sources noted that having been made on the eve of the prime minister's and foreign minister's visits to Europe—visits aimed at enlisting support for the Israeli Government's initiative—Baker's criticism has largely undermined those visits. According to the Jerusalem sources, Baker's remarks paved the way for the European Community members to require that Israel provide details on the peace initiative, expressing reservations about it as long as Israel keeps the procedures of the elections vague.

At the same time, it has been learned in Jerusalem that the PLO has already transmitted to the United States details of its demands regarding the election procedures, while stressing its support for this election plan provided that certain conditions are met, including the summoning of outside observers, the participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs, and guarantees about the permanent solution.

It has been said that a decision is emerging in the Muslim Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to support this move too so as not to fall behind the PLO, if this organization indeed gives its blessing to the residents of the territories to take part in the elections. In view of this, it is expected in Jerusalem that the United States will increase its pressure on Israel to specify the conditions for the holding of elections, as well as the propaganda methods which would render democratic elections possible, as customary in the West.

'Media Sources' Cited on Arab Summit Communique

TA2505133289 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 May 89 p 1

[Text] Casablanca—Media sources have revealed what are described as the broad outlines of some of the clauses of the Casablanca summit's final communique, as follows:

—Approval of a unified Arab plan of action to support the residents in the occupied Arab lands.

—Assigning a subcommittee to study the PLO request to issue a Palestinian passport recognized by the Arab states.

—Addressing a plea to the Lebanese parties to overcome the obstacles preventing a solution to Lebanon's crisis.

—Discussing several proposals to modify the Arab League charter in order to conform with present conditions.

—Adopting a unified Arab position that would be a development of the Fes summit plan regarding ways of establishing peace in the region, and would enhance the Palestinian position.

—Issuing a call to Iran—upon Iraq's request—to implement Resolution 598 to end the dispute between the two countries.

—Fixing a date for the ordinary summit in Riyadh.

'Serious Diplomatic Tension' With France Cited

TA2505100189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 May 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Serious diplomatic tension has recently been noticed in Israeli-French relations. Under the direct orders of French President Francois Mitterrand, France has been adopting a hostile policy toward Israel and sharply criticizing its policy in the territories.

Senior officials in Jerusalem confirmed that relations between the two countries have been in a deep slump since the visit in Paris of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as Mitterrand's guest. In reaction to the visit and the warm reception accorded to 'Arafat despite Israel's pleas and protests, the Israeli Foreign Minister hinted to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas that a visit to Jerusalem in the near future would not be desirable. It was further suggested that Israel is not interested in receiving any reports about 'Arafat's talks in Paris.

The French were offended by the postponement of Dumas' visit, but they were particularly enraged by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' remarks in a closed forum in which he likened the Mitterrand-'Arafat session to meetings of French dignitaries with the Nazis during World War II. The political assistant director general of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs lodged a protest with Israel over Arens' remarks, and the French even boycotted a reception given by the Israeli Embassy on Independence Day, sending only junior officials to the event.

Senior officials in Paris have recently also complained that Israeli Ambassador 'Ovadya Sofer has been meddling excessively in France's internal affairs.

The tension comes after what has been described as a good period in relations between the two countries. Arens visited France at the beginning of the year, and Dumas reciprocated with a visit to Israel a few months ago during which he planted a tree in memory of his father. Meanwhile, contacts have been reduced to the minimum possible. Fears have been voiced in Jerusalem that the French minister of foreign affairs may display a one-sided policy in the Israeli-Arab conflict when he begins his duties as chairman of the EEC's Council of Ministers next month.

Editor Convicted of Censorship Violation

TA2505122689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrates Court has convicted Dr Hanna Sinyurah of a censorship violation. The violation refers to an interview held with Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad approximately 2 and ½ years ago, which was published in the Al-FAJR newspaper. Sinyurah is the editor-in-chief of the newspaper.

Judge Aharon Simha ruled that Sinyurah was obligated to submit the material to the censor prior to publication, even if he had not received a general order to do so.

The court's sentence will be handed down in the coming weeks.

Palestinian Notable Released From Detention

TA2605100089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 89 p A5

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] Ghassan al-Khatib, the Palestinian economist and a resident of Ramallah who was detained for interrogation 10 days ago on suspicion of involvement in subversive activity was unconditionally released from detention yesterday.

Al-Khatib is the most prominent Palestinian activist who coordinates and organizes meetings between Peace Now Movement members and Palestinians in the territories. On Wednesday the movement leaders convened a news conference in which they called for his immediate release.

Ghassan al-Khatib, an economics lecturer at the Bi'r Zayt University was detained a few hours before he was supposed to meet with Dennis Ross, the U.S. State Department spokesman, as a member of a delegation of notables from the territories. He is considered to be affiliated with the Palestinian Communist Party. His attorney, Jawad Bulus, emphasized that Al-Khatib was released without any bail or conditions, stating that this indicates that the detention was probably not carried out for practical reasons.

Al-Khatib said that in his interrogation he was asked questions concerning three matters mainly: the allegation that he is a member of the Palestinian Communist Party; the allegation that he has a direct or indirect link with the leadership of the uprising; and the allegation that he is connected to the leaflets published by this leadership. Al-Khatib denied all three allegations. [passage omitted]

Territory Closures Termed 'Operational'

TA2505110389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories said today that Israel has no interest in forbidding the residents of the territories to work in Israel. Goren was responding to the various suggestions to prevent the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip from working in Israel.

[Begin Goren recording] We have no intention of closing the Gaza Strip for a prolonged period. The closures and curfews are operational and are in force only for as long as the circumstances demand. We lift the closures the minute we can. That is what we did in the Gaza Strip in the last few days.

If we are forced—and I very much hope this will not happen—to close the territories for long periods, this will have an effect not just in the economic domain but also from a security aspect, and this effect will be a negative one. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 25 May 89 also carries a report on Goren's remarks, adding the following recorded remarks: "Our policy is not to prevent Arabs from working in Israel. We are in favor of their working in Israel, provided they are properly registered and equipped with the appropriate permits, that there is supervision, and that their wages and working conditions are equal to those of the Israelis. There should be nothing to prevent them from working, provided, of course, that the conditions allow it; I mean security conditions."—FBIS]

Goren made these statements while touring a factory which employs over 100 residents from the territories. He was heard by our correspondent Shay Preitel.

Official 'Prepared' To Open Schools 26 May

TA2505191889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Shay Erez, says he is prepared to open schools tomorrow if teachers and parents can ensure they will not become centers of violence. Erez was speaking at the opening of a new Civil Administration office south of Mount Hebron. The office will serve more than 100,000 people in the area.

Group To Defy Ban on Jerusalem Day Marches

TA2605064889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The Jerusalem police have banned all marches inside the Old City by political parties and movements on Jerusalem Day. The police statement said that no marches or raising of the Israeli flag would be permitted inside the walled Old City, since this could serve as a provocation and could lead to dangerous confrontations.

The police said they would be unable to defend the marchers or the residents of the Old City.

The head of the Temple Mount Faithful movement has appealed the decision to the High Court of Justice. The court is expected to hand down its decision on Tuesday Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen [from the right-wing Tehiya party] has said that she will not adhere to the ban and that members of the Tehiya Party will march on Jerusalem Day carrying Israeli flags through the streets of the Old City.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Car Gutted by Firebomb

TA2405201589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] This evening a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car in the Biddiya junction on the trans-Samaria highway. The car was completely burned out but the driver managed to escape unscathed. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that IDF troops were called to the scene and began searches. Tempers are flaring among Jewish settlers in the area; stones were thrown earlier at another Israeli vehicle in the area and its window was shattered. There were no injuries in that incident.

'Disturbances' in Jabalyah

TA2505123289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A youth was killed and several residents were injured in severe disturbances in the Jabalyah refugee camp near Gaza this morning. Some of the wounded are reported to be in critical condition. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that five IDF soldiers were slightly injured by stones and bricks thrown at them during the riots.

A few of the injured were treated at the scene, and the rest were taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. As stated earlier, all five were only slightly injured.

A curfew has been imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp. The commander of the Southern Command and the commander of the Gaza district are currently conducting an inspection on the field.

Residents of the camp said that many people participated in the today's demonstrations.

'Several' Residents Killed

TA2505153389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpts] A youth, Khalid Hanafi, was killed and several residents were wounded in serious riots which took place at the Jabalyah refugee camp near Gaza this morning. The camp's residents claim that two other residents, a 23-year-old youth, Khalid al-'Atuna, and an 11-year-old boy, Khalil al-Sakhar, were also killed in the clash with IDF soldiers. [passage omitted]

A 13-year-old boy was wounded in Tulkarm by IDF soldiers' gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a group of boys hurled stones at the military authorities' building. They repeated their act after having been driven away once, and the soldiers then used their weapons. The wounded boy was transferred to a hospital in Nabulus.

IDF Probe Concludes 1 Killed

TA2505174889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] An investigation conducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Jabalyah refugee camp has concluded that one person was killed and another man was seriously injured in disturbances there today.

The dead man was killed by IDF troops after he ignored their command to halt and attempted to run away. It was learned later that he had been previously imprisoned for security offenses.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that residents of the camp initially claimed there were three fatalities, but as stated before, only one man was killed.

Five IDF soldiers were also slightly injured by stones during the incident. They were taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon and later released.

Following the disturbances a curfew was imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Possible Collaborators Killed

TA2505200989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] An Arab was killed in the Gaza Strip today in the course of searches for people wanted by the security forces. The IDF spokesman announced that the man was surprised by an IDF squad in an orchard and tried to escape. The death of the man triggered a riot in the Jabalyah refugee camp, and five soldiers were slightly injured by stones.

In another incident, a Jabalyah resident was shot and severely wounded. Also, the bodies of two local residents were discovered in the refugee camp today. They were murdered. They were probably suspected of collaboration with the Israeli authorities.

Settlers Fire on Arab Houses

TA2605055489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Hundreds of Qiryat Arba' residents gathered at the outskirts of the settlement last night and fired shots in all directions. This took place after two firebombs were hurled near the entrance of the settlement earlier in the evening.

Residents of Qiryat Arba' said that the tracks of those who had thrown the firebombs led to an adjacent Arab neighborhood.

The IDF sealed off the exits from Qiryat Arba' but hundreds of residents sneaked out, under cover of darkness, and shot bursts of gunfire at a block of houses that the tracks led to.

During the incident the settlers destroyed a fence separating Qiryat Arba' and the Arab neighborhood and scuffled with IDF soldiers.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one Qiryat Arba' resident was held for questioning, and several other settlers suspected of participating in the shooting were ordered to report to the police for questioning.

Gaza Strip Curfew Update

TA2605055989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The IDF imposed a curfew on the Sabra and Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhoods in Gaza. The curfews on the Jabalyah and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps and on the village of Bayt Lahiyah remain in force.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that seven residents were wounded in the course of disturbances in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours. Hospitals in the city claimed the number of injured was higher.

Additional Arrests 25 May

TA2605061889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The IDF continued searching the village of Al-'Ayzariyah last night and arrested approximately 20 suspects. The village is still under curfew.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF also searched the village of Halhul and arrested many residents suspected of participating in disturbances and stone-throwing incidents.

Violent Incidents 25 May

TA2605081389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 May 89 p 1, 18

[Report by Joel Greenberg and New York based correspondent Walter Ruby]

[Excerpts] Troops shot and killed a Palestinian in fierce clashes at the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday and wounded 48 others in the territories, according to Palestinian reports. The IDF confirmed the death and four injuries. Five soldiers were lightly hurt.

A Palestinian suspected of cooperating with the authorities was stabbed to death at Jabalyah. [passage omitted]

Stone-throwing clashes erupted throughout the camp, and troop reinforcements were rushed to the scene. Rocks, bottles and masonry blocks were dropped from rooftops on soldiers, who responded by opening fire. Military sources said a Palestinian was seriously wounded, and five soldiers lightly injured by stones. Palestinians said 12 camp residents were wounded. A curfew was clamped on the camp.

Palestinians reported 11 persons wounded in clashes at the Al-Burayj refugee camp, and 15 others injured in other areas of the Gaza Strip. The IDF said two were wounded at Khan Yunus, and a curfew was in force at the camp. [passage omitted]

Walter Ruby adds from New York: Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin revealed here yesterday that Israel is holding some 11,000 Palestinians behind bars.

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Rabin dismissed as "nonsense" the suggestion by Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon and others that the way to end the intifadah [uprising] is to expel several hundred top leaders.

Rabin said: "Today we keep in military installations detainees and (those under) arrest 7,000 Palestinians....In addition, there are 4,000 members of terrorist organizations in the normal prison system. All in all, 11,000 Palestinians are behind bars.

Suspect Held for Aiding 'Uprising'

TA2605110689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The Galilee Subdistrict police detained a resident of the village of 'Arraba who is suspected of having collected a large amount of money in recent weeks for the continuation of the uprising in the territories. The suspect issued a special checkbook to this end. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz adds that a significant increase has been marked lately in the number of Galilee Arabs who are collecting money and general supplies for the residents of the territories.

Arabs, Settlers Fire in Hebron

TA2605124089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] A patrol of settlers in Hebron opened fire into the air after being attacked with stones near the local 'Aliya Hospital. Our correspondent reports that the IDF has closed off the area and has ordered journalists out.

Inhabitants of 'Arurah in the Ramallah District claim that settlers entered their village this morning, opened fire, wounded three locals, and damaged property. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF and the police are looking into the incident. Civil Administration personnel are taking testimonies from the casualties, who have been transferred to a hospital in Ramallah.

U.S. Charge Simpson Declared Persona Non Grata
NC2605085989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] AL-ANWAR newspaper reports that U.S. Charge d'Affaires Daniel Simpson has left Lebanon after being officially informed by the Lebanese Government that he is persona non grata in Lebanon because of his stands on Lebanese developments.

Syrian Armored Brigade Reportedly Enters Lebanon
NC2505114489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] According to security reports from Al-Biqa', the Syrians brought an armored brigade into Lebanon early this week via the Dayr al-'Asha'ir Road. Some 40 tanks, personnel carriers, and trucks were seen entering via the Shtawrah-Dahr al-Baydar road. In addition, Syrian movements were monitored on Al-Baruk mountain. Security sources believe that the goal of these movements is to control the roads in the region.

Syrians Turn Island Near Tripoli Into Naval Base
NC2605112789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The Syrian naval forces have turned Al-Aranib Island, which lies opposite Tripoli, into a Syrian naval base and have deployed a radar there to monitor the eastern coast. Three coast guard vessels are cruising the northern coast up to the Shikka area.

Tension Continues Between Syrians, Hizballah
NC2505150989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] Tension is continuing between Hizballah and the Syrian forces in the southern suburb. Gunmen are still in evidence and both sides are on alert in several quarters in the area, following a clash between the two parties in Al-Awza'i shortly before noon today. According to reports from West Beirut, the clash which took place between Hizballah personnel and a Syrian group at the Al-Saydani gas depot left three Syrian soldiers dead and five others wounded.

Negotiations between the Syrians and Hizballah in the southern suburb over the incident in which Hizballah men surrounded a Syrian group at the gas depot have not yet yielded any results. [passage omitted]

Amal Arrests Hizballah Officials in South
NC2505175389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Sources in the Amal Movement have disclosed that the Movement arrested some Hizballah officials in southern villages in the last few days after these officials attempted to prepare for a series of plans to attack the Movement's positions in the south.

Amal has accused Hizballah personnel of attempting to assassinate the movement's security official Ni'mah Haydar in Al-Nabatiyah in an explosion last week which targeted his car and wounded him and three of his aides.

Amal Member Injured by Hizballah in W. Beirut
NC2505180089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] At 1845 today, an Amal member named Jamal Hamzah was fired upon by Hizballah members while he was driving his car in Tal'at Shahadah area [in West Beirut]. He was admitted into the American University Hospital, and his condition is said to be serious. Afterward, Amal and Hizballah mobilized their members in Hayy al-Lijah, Mar Ilyas, and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq. Shots were fired and rocket shells were heard exploding in those areas.

Army Positions in East Beirut Shelled
NC2605084989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0844 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army's positions in the military court vicinity have been coming under sudden shellfire from Syrian positions in the Al-Barbir for the second consecutive day. The sound of artillery and rocket shells have reveberated in the area.

Beirut Crossing Point Closed Following Clashes
NC2605100589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tension prevails on the Museum-Al-Barbir contact line following clashes which took place at about 1140 today. The clashes led to the closure of the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point and caused alarm among the residents who were waiting to go through.

Israeli 24 May Activities in South Reported
NC2505141489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A military souce in the Amal Movement has stated that at 2030 last night, two Israeli gunboats advanced in the direction of Abu al-Aswad coast as many flares were fired. The Movement's ground guns confronted the boats and forced them to retreat to the open sea.

Meanwhile, the town of Kafr Rumman came under artillery and sniper fire from the Israeli positions overlooking the town last night. Israeli warplanes also flew over the forests surrounding 'Ali al-Tahir, Al-Dabshah, Al-Suwayda', and Tuhrah last night.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Coalition Alliances Reach 'Agreement'

LD2505202689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The Afghan Revolution Islamic Alliance Council and the Afghan Islamic Coalition have signed a three-point agreement following two meetings. The principles of this agreement include the prevention of internal clashes, joint struggle by the Islamic forces against the Kabul puppet regime in order to establish an Islamic system, and the dispatch of a competent delegation to establish coordination and to prevent internal agitation [of the struggling groups] from entering Afghanistan.

In this agreement, the internal clashes are said to be damaging to Islam and to the Muslims and the deprived nation of Afghanistan and it is stressed that all Islamic groups and all Muslims of Afghanistan should be a part of the future Islamic system in Afghanistan. This agreement has been described by both sides as a step toward complete understanding and achieving overall unity. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Afghan Islamic Coalition by Hojjat ol-Eslam Zahedi and on behalf of the Afghan Revolution Islamic Alliance Council by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Mahdavi.

'Extremist Groups' Suffer 'Heavy Losses'

BK2605095789 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The valiant Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan inflicted pounding strikes and caused heavy losses to the extremist groups supported by Pakistan and Saudi Wahabbis on Wednesday [24 May] in Nangarhar Province in Khowst Division and destroyed a large consignment of their arms and ammunition, reports the military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] with reference to an authorized source of the Armed Forces.

Supported by the heavy fire and Pakistani Division Nos 11 and 18, the joint forces of the enemy heavily shelled on May 24th the city and the airport of Jalalabad, killing one and wounding another six and destroying two private houses.

With their heavy blows of artillery and other heavy weapons, the Afghan Armed Forces suppressed [as heard] 87 extremists and wounded 56 others; destroyed one of the enemy's two missile units, three rocket launchers, two BM-12 units, two mortar guns, and five vehicles carrying arms and ammunition.

The joint forces of the enemy attacked from several directions in Khowst Division, while the cover operation of the Afghan Armed Forces stopped the invasion of their foes and compelled them to retreat after suffering heavy casualties.

Rebels Killed, Weapons Captured in Nangarhar

LD2505084189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR—A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 45 rockets of the extremists were discovered and confiscated by the detachments of the Armed Forces of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] in Nangarhar Province during the past 24 hours, an authorised military source said.

Extremists supported by the 11th and 18th Pakistani Divisions attacked Jalalabad and its outskirts killing eleven civilians, including a member of the Armed Forces and wounding of 6 others. Five private houses [were] demolished. Repulsing attacks of the enemy the Armed Forces killed 79 extremists and wounded 45 others. A large quantity of armaments of the enemy fell at the hand of the Armed Forces.

As a result of the attacks of the extremists and Wahhabis 2 civilians were killed and 5 others wounded in the Khowst Grand District. The counter land and air attacks of the Armed Forces resulted to the killing of 327 extremists and destruction of armaments of the enemy.

Nine extremists were killed and 17 others wounded by the members of the Armed Forces in Herat and Konduz Provinces.

Situations in the rest of provinces of the RA were reported as normal. The main land routes leading to the capital and administrative centres of the provinces remained open to the traffic.

Moscow Party Delegation Meets With Najubullah

LD1905193189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning at the Gol Khanah Palace of the Presidency with a high-ranking delegation of the Moscow City Party Committee led by Vladimir Ivanovich Kuznetsov, the deputy secretary of that committee.

During this meeting the esteemed Najibullah, on behalf of the state and people of the Republic of Afghanistan, expressed thanks for the selfless assistance of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan and discussed the expansion of cooperation in the interest of both countries.

In reply, the deputy secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee expressed his pleasure at meeting the esteemed Najibullah and pledged further cooperation in vital areas of life during his conversation about the friendly and fraternal relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan. (Vsevogod Semenovich Ozhegov), charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy to Kabul was also present.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD1905195189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers met with Vladimir Ivanovich Kuznetsov, deputy to the secretary of Moscow City Party Committee.

During the meeting views were exchanged on topics of mutual interest. Daud Razmyar, secretary of Kabul City Party Committee and (Vsevolod Semenovich Ozhegov), charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy to Kabul, were also present.

The deputy secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee pledged his all-round cooperation for an immediate solution to the difficulties of Kabul citizens from the viewpoint of essential goods, based on old friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and in accordance with the direct ties between Kabul and Moscow.

In return Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed thanks for the selfless assistance of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan which is being rendered under difficult conditions. The meeting was held in a climate of friendship and full understanding.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2205083389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 21, BAKHTAR—The high-ranking delegation of the Party Committee of Moscow City headed by Vladimir Kuznetsov, vice-chairman of that committee who at the invitation of the party committee of Kabul city paid a friendly visit here left Kabul for home on Saturday.

The Soviet delegation was seen off at the Kabul Airport by Mir Sahib Karwal, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC), vice chairman of the party committee of Kabul City and charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Defense Minister Speaks at Grand Assembly

LD2405084189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 23, BAKHTAR—When the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union left Afghanistan the people of the world attentively were watching developments in Afghanistan.

This was said by General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in the session of the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) held in the Afghan capital recently.

In the historic Loya Jirgah of December 1988 we had promised to our fellow countrymen that we are ready to independently defend our country and we will not allow enemies of the people to impose their heinous designs here. In order to achieve this end, the Armed Forces of the RA remained in a state of total alert. It is already six months that a single Soviet soldier does not exist in Afghanistan. Our people's sovereignty remained in power. During this period our enemies spared no efforts to undermine Afghanistan. But their attempts were in wane [as received], Tanay said.

All important cities and strategic points in the country are under the complete control of the Armed Forces. I, here in this glorious Jirgah announce with honour that no force would be able to overthrow legitimate state of the Republic of Afghanistan, Tanay stressed.

The Pakistani militarymen who are not wishing to see a powerful Afghanistan in its neighbourhood interfere in the internal affairs of the RA. They train, arm, and send extremists to commit murder, arson, and plunder inside the Republic of Afghanistan. The Pakistani militia, soldiers and Arab mercenaries are carrying armed activities against the people's sovereignty of the RA in Jalalabad, centre of Nangarhar Province. Foreign mercenaries have so far taken part in wars in the Khowst Grand District, Qandahar and frontier areas of Afghanistan. The Pakistani militarymen, servants of Pentagon and CIA, attempt in futile to impose the so-called extremists interim government on the Afghan people. But, the enemy must know that the Armed Forces of the RA are capable and fully experienced to foil all plots and intrigues of the enemy. Our armed forces are armed and equipped with modern armaments. They are more powerful than ever, Tanay went on.

After the return of Soviet forces home, the Pakistanis did not fulfil provisions of the Geneva accords and along with the opposition launched their attacks on Qandahar, Zabol, Nangarhar, Khowst, Laghman, Kabul-Hayratan and Kabul-Jalalabad highways and other corners of the RA. These Pakistani-extremist attacks forced us to continue our war operations against our enemies and defeat them completely, Tanay said.

The wars fought in Jalalabad showed this fact clearly that the people of Afghanistan is on the side of their Armed Forces. This solidarity is strengthening by the flight of time. People from Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Jowzjan and other areas of the country voluntarily took part in the Jalalabad wars, Tanay added.

The Armed Forces of the RA are fighting for the ensurance of peace, realisation of the national reconciliation policy, security, peace and prosperity of their fellow

countrymen. The Armed Forces of the RA defend territorial integrity, historical and national honour and gains of the Afghans, Tanay concluded.

Committee Marking French Revolution Formed
LD1805220489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that an order has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the formation of a commission to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution:

The order of the president of Afghanistan on the formation of a commission to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, reads:

The year 1989 coincides with the 200th anniversary of the victory of the French Revolution, which will be marked and welcomed by all countries.

As a result of the great role played by the French revolution in the path of the evolution of human history and taking into account the fact that the slogans of this revolution, such as freedom and equality, are approved and supported by the Republic of Afghanistan, it is therefore necessary to mark this great event in our country.

In order to mark this event the followings is approved:

1. A preparation commission to mark the anniversary of the French Revolution will be formed in the following way: esteemed Dr Muhammad Habibi, chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Afghanistan, as the head of the commission; esteemed Sarwal Mangal, deputy prime minister, as the deputy head of the commission; esteemed Dr (Salem) Mojaz as the secretary of the commission; esteemed academician Faruq Etamadi as a member; esteemed Dr Mehr Mohammad Ejazi as a member; esteemed 'Abdol Hamid Mobarez as a member; esteemed Yunis Farman as a member; and esteemed Mohaydin Shams as a member.

2. The preparation commission will begin its work 22 May. It will approve a procedure plan for the anniversary of the French Revolution and organize its implementation with the concerned bodies of state and social organizations.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Quantity of Hashish Seized in Sar-e Pol Province
LD1505202989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Staff of the anticrime department of the Sarandoy [military] command of Sar-e Pol Province yesterday seized 1,296 kg of hashish in [placename indistinct] village in that province. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the drug trafficker was also captured. The case is under investigation.

India

Officials React To U.S. Trade 'Hit List'
BK2605113089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 26 May 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, May 26 (AFP)—India reacted strongly Friday to a U.S. decision to put India on the so-called "hit list" of trading partners, saying the move was "totally unjustified, irrational and unfair."

Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh in a statement here called the U.S. Government's action "hypocritical" because Washington itself retained barriers preventing access to its markets.

The private sector, through the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), also slammed the action as "unnecessary, inopportune and most unfortunate."

The administration of President George Bush Thursday said it was placing Japan, India and Brazil on a "hit list" of trading partners cited for alleged cheating in the international market place. [passage omitted]

Mr Dinesh Singh said New Delhi was dismayed because the United States was "hardly in a position to ask others to lift barriers without doing so itself." He said it was regrettable that the United States, which had "built and retained a variety of barriers against access to its markets," had decided to take unilateral action.

The U.S. move amounted to "undercutting" comprehensive multilateral negotiations to develop a just and liberalised system of trade and to preserve and strengthen the multilateral trading system, he added.

"This action is also violative of (the) United States' own commitment" under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, he said.

"We regard this (U.S.) law and action under it as totally unjustified, irrational and unfair," said the minister's statement, released within 24 hours of Washington's publication of the "hit list." [passage omitted]

ASSOCHAM President Viren J. Shah said in a statement that the U.S. move was "unnecessary, inopportune and most unfortunate" and "more so because the action was taken on the basis of complaints of some American business interests."

Mr Shah said the ASSOCHAM was of the view that 40 percent of restrictions on foreign equity should be liberalised and there should be speedy disposal of applications for industrial licenses and for foreign tie-ups. But "the present precipitous action of the U.S. government might not help matters as no government would like to change policies under foreign pressure, whichever is the source," he added.

He said the "unfortunate development" had taken place at a time "when there has been a wind of change in economic policies of the Government of India for sometime past."

The United States is India's largest trading partner as well as the largest investor in India.

Defense Minister Says 'Agni' Can Carry Warheads
BK2605031589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, says the long range missile 'Agni' has the potential to carry lethal warheads and deliver them with a high degree of accuracy. He, however, pointed out that India still has some way to go before missiles enter operational service and are integrated with the armed forces.

Addressing the economic editors conference in New Delhi yesterday, Mr Pant said the integrated missile development program aims at building up our missile-based defenses. This is an option, which the country will have to consider in the coming years, he said. The defense minister said the government's policy is to compete in the international market and sell equipment and systems as also enter into agreement with other countries for joint production.

The industry minister, Mr Vengal Rao, who also addressed the conference, said the center's policy is to modernize and upgrade the technology in industry to enable it compete in foreign markets.

Punjab Government Invokes Essential Services Act
BK2505163989 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The Punjab government today invoked provisions of the Essential Services Maintenance Act to meet the situation created by the engineers' strike and to maintain essential services like water supply and other public health facilities in the state.

Under the act, any person disobeying a lawful order given to him in the course of employment or absenting himself from work without any reasonable cause can be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the government was left with no alternative but to enforce this act to maintain the basic services.

Gandhi Greets Gorbachev on Election as President
BK2605033689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has warmly congratulated Mr Gorbachev on his election as president of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. In a message to the Soviet leader, the prime minister said that the government and the people of India are happy to see him reelected as president under the new political dispensation chosen by the great Soviet people. The prime minister wished the Soviet president many more years of valuable service to the people of the Soviet Union and in promoting peace and prosperity in the world.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon on Khomeyni Operation
LD2605101889 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—The decision to operate on Imam Khomeyni's digestive tract was "truly difficult" but the result was much better than expected, Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

"Right now his condition is totally natural, (but) like an ill person who is not old, and is recovering. His condition is quickly progressing towards normality," he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was giving his Friday prayer sermon at Tehran University where tens of thousands prayed earlier for the imam's speedy recovery and thanked God for the success of the operation.

"I visited the imam at his hospital bed this morning... He was feeling very well. I found him very joyful. I kissed his blessed hands and told him I was going to Friday prayer. I asked whether he had anything to say to the people, He said... 'Send my greetings to our good people'."

The Majlis speaker said the imam's son, Ahmad, had informed senior officials about a week before Tuesday's operation that the leader of the Islamic revolution, who is 87, was not feeling well.

"We were informed that the imam felt some weakness and was not feeling as lively as usual. He has a lot of work and has to take care of many national affairs and this cannot be done with weakness."

Doctors started tests immediately and it took several days to find the source of the illness and pinpoint where bleeding was occurring in the digestive system. Then they had to choose between prescribing medication or operate directly.

"It was a very difficult decision," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. "Medication was not reliable and calculations indicated that the bleeding would not be stopped and would also have negative effects. The imam cannot endure all that medication at this age and would have made him even weaker and less capable.

"The other solution was to operate on the wound. But for doctors the problem with operating was that it raised the question whether or not the imam's heart, with previous record of illness, could endure such an operation and the loss of blood?

"There were many meetings and after hours and hours of deliberations the doctors finally came to the decision that the right solution is to operate. Tests were made on the heart and they were confident that his heart could bear the operation."

The operation was carried out Tuesday morning and an announcement on its total success was read out at noon.

The Majlis speaker said that the operation turned out to be more effective in stopping the bleeding than had earlier been predicted by doctors. "What has so far been the result is much better than what we had expected."

On his meeting Friday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the imam also thanked all those who sent messages and held gatherings to pray for his well being. He would thank them personally later.

"He also asked if you could pray that God would accept him. This is something that every wise person seeks from God. To be accepted. Nothing is more valuable for us than this...

"I felt God has already accepted our imam - a man whose life has been so blessed, a man who has given greatness to Islam and Iran, brought pride for the Islamic nation in the face of the world, and saved this great nation from the dangerous Pahlavi gang and the agents of America, Britain and Western colonialism."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also prayed that the goals of the Islamic revolution, i.e. the rule and honor of Islam, would be achieved under the guidances of the imam himself.

Urges Syria To Resist Iraq

LD2605130489 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Friday urged Syria to resist pressure in the Arab summit from Iraq and its allies and prevent them from making any gains in Lebanon's power struggle.

"The Saddam gang are trying to solve the Lebanese issue in favor of Israel and the Phalangists and to strengthen the (military regime) of Michel 'Awn," said Iran's Majlis speaker.

Speaking at Friday prayer, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was "confident that revolutionary countries" in the Arab League meeting in the Moroccan city of Casablanca would not give in to Iraqi pressure.

After six hours of heated debate Friday the Arab heads of state failed to reach agreement on ways to solve the Lebanese crisis when Syria rejected calls to reduce the number of its forces in Lebanon.

According to reports from Casablanca the meeting only resulted in the formation of a three-nation committee headed by Morocco to follow up the matter. Algeria and Saudi Arabia would be the two other members.

Meanwhile an explosion ripped through a crowded area in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli near a mosque shortly after Friday prayer. The city's law and order is administered by Syrians. There were no immediate reports on casualties.

Also Hashemi-Rafsanjani played down the European Parliament's call for an economic and diplomatic boycott of the Islamic Republic for its alleged support for terrorism and violation of international laws.

"I don't see the European Parliament as that significant to take their decision seriously," the Majlis speaker said.

"The European Parliament is a place where impotent individuals with no place in their own country are elected to, and it has no executive power. This is only a political move to help colonialist aims."

The parliament's decisions are non-binding on the governments of the 12-nation European Community [EC].

In a number of EC capitals officials have expressed reservations about the parliament's move which also included support for the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] terrorist organization.

Khomeyni's Physicians Update Recovery 26 May

NC2605114389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] The team of physicians attending Imam Khomeyni announced that with the blessings of God Almighty and the prayers of the noble people, his eminence the imam's general condition is fine and his daily progress proceediang as expected and is a source of satisfaction and assurance. The condition of his heart, respiratory system, blood pressure, pulse, and kidneys is extremely satisfactory. Today, Imam Khomeyni was able to talk with his close relatives for a longer period of time.

Montazeri Sends Get Well Message to Khomeyni

LD2605062689 Tehran IRNA in English 0618 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri sent a message to Imam Khomeyni praying that the leader of the Islamic Revolution would be able to serve Muslims for more years to come.

"After greetings, news of Your Holiness' illness was saddening and your recovery brought joy," said the message published in Thursday's newspapers. It was dated Wednesday.

"Hopefully god would bless your holiness with wealth, a longer life and greater success in serving Islam and Muslims."

Ayatollah Montazeri resigned from deputy leadership in March.

UK Said To Play Down Call for Economic Boycott

LD2605053589 Tehran IRNA in English
0445 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] London, May 25, IRNA—The British Government has played down a call from the European Parliament to impose an economic boycott on Iran and support the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq terrorist group (MKO) to replace the present Islamic leadership.

A declaration, sponsored by British labor representative Stan Newens, accused Iran Wednesday [24 May] with violating international law. But in calling for European support to intervene in another country is in itself contravening the U.N. Charter.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London Thursday distanced the U.K. from the call, saying there was "no official response" from Britain.

Sources close to the Foreign Office suggest Britain, which has already had its relations severed by Iran, has no desire to impose economic sanctions and previously made it clear that it did not believe such tactics were useful.

In its declaration, parliamentary members urged for "fighting support" for the MKO, which is based in Baghad and which carried out an armed infiltration of Iran along with Iraqi troops after the Iran accepted UN resolution 598 last July.

European Assembly calls are not binding on individual states and are rarely given much credence from the 12-member nations.

Velayati Receives Kuwaiti Envoy, Message

LD2505195589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah's special envoy, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and deputy foreign minister, met Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister. During the talks the envoy submitted a written message from Shaykh Sabah to the foreign minister.

Petroleum Minister on Visit to Latin America

LD2205111889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Our country's minister of petroleum, Aqazadeh, who headed a delegation to Venezuela and Ecuador, stopped over in Madrid, the capital of Spain, during his return journey to Iran. In an interview with an IRNA correspondent he commented on the results of his visits to the two Latin American countries. He said that cooperation between Iran and Venezuela, and Ecuador at the next OPEC session, which is to be convened in Vienna on 2 June, was among the topics discussed with the presidents and the petroleum officials of those two countries. Further, there was emphasis on stepping up the three countries' efforts in stabilizing the price of oil on the world market. The petroleum minister added: In Caracas, talks were held with that country's officials on the exchange of petroleum information, the purchase of iron ore, aluminum and other minerals from Venezuela, and it was agreed that in addition to the exchange of information and experts, a delegation from Venezuela will visit Iran. He added that an agreement to purchase 300,000 tons of iron ore from Venezuela was also signed.

Regarding his trip to Ecuador, the petroleum minister said: Iran cooperates with Ecuador in the field of petroleum and its affiliated industries such as gas and petrochemicals, and it was agreed that a delegation from Ecuador will visit Iran, so that, having become familiar with our capabilities, they will be able to state their requirements.

Discusses Venezuela, Ecuador Visits

LD2405091789 Tehran IRNA in English
1150 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA—Iranian oil minister arrived home this morning after visiting counterparts in two OPEC-member countries in Latin America.

Upon his arrival, the minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters his talks in Venezuela and Ecuador were "very useful."

He said he reached to common points with the oil ministers of the two states on OPEC policies and decisions.

Iran agreed with the Venezuelan authorities to employ their technology for exploration, exploitation and export of very heavy crude oil in two oil fields.

Instead, he added, Venezuela will use Iranian experise on the production of light oil. The two countries will also start cooperation in oil processing and research.

Aqazadeh also said preliminary agreements were made on the purchase of 80,000 tons of aluminium bars and powder. Iran will also buy 300,000 tons of iron ore and 9,000 tons of ferrosilicon.

On his visit to Ecuador ways for bilateral cooperation on gas production, petrochemistry and oil processing were examined.

Energy Minister on Progress of Renovation Work
NC2605093589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Yesterday, the energy minister announced in Orumiyeh that the Ministry of Energy has begun to reconstruct and repair the power stations damaged during the imposed war. All the damaged power stations are expected to be repaired and become operational by the end of the current year.

Mr Zanganeh, currently visiting Azarbayjan to inspect the Energy Ministry's installations and units, added: Intensified activity is now in progress for the completion of the Khorramshahr power grid, and it will be functional by the end of this month.

He said: The Abadan power supply has been securedd, and in light of the scheduled return of the Abadan refugees and residents, work on the power distribution network for Abadan will also be expedited. Mr Zanganeh said that the Energy Ministry is giving top priority to hydroelectric power production in the first and second 5-year plans and added: The use of water turbines is the best means for power production. In light of the abandance of water resources in provinces such as Khuzestan and West Azarbayjan and Kordestan, we are in a position to produce approximately 16,000 megawatts of electricity in the first and second plans.

He called on various sections of society to exercise austerity in the use of water and power and expressed the hope that with the functioning of the Martyr Mohammad Montazeri Power Station No 4 and the Tabriz No 2 in the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October], the capacity of the supply from the national power grid would be further boosted and more than 500 megawatts of electricity would be added to it.

Meshkini, Khamene'i Discuss Constitution

NC2305151989 [Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1830 GMT on 22 May carries a 45-minute video report of the open session of the deliberations of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution [CRC] on 18 May.

The session is officially opened by Ayatollah Meshkini, and is followed by a reading of the agenda by the rapporteur, who says: "In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The agenda for the 10th general session of the CRC held on the afternoon of Thursday, 28 Ordibehesht 1368 [18 May 1989], is as follows: One, continuation of discussion on the report concerning Articles 156, 157, and 158 submitted by the first session of the committee discussing centralization in the administration of the judiciary branch to the CRC; two, discussions on adding one paragraph to the internal regulations of the CRC; and three, discussion on general issues." Then Meshkini asks that there be a Koranic recitation, and Deputy Amini rises to chant some Koranic verses.

Then Meshkini cites more Koranic verses, and goes on to thank the Iranian nation for their letters and telephone calls in support of what the council is doing. He says that these proposals "and even opposition" to them are all praiseworthy because these show that the nation is paying attention to its own affairs. He then refers to Khamene'i's recent visits abroad and says that these visits were "political propaganda" in nature and can be described as "the visit by a religious man in carrying out religious objectives."

At this point Ahmad Khomeyni arrives and takes a seat while Meshkini is continuing his remarks. In conclusion, Meshkini says: "God willing, our revolution will be able to go everywhere" in the form of such visits.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that those members who spoke less than the 10 minutes allowed them "yesterday" can continue and complete their 10 minutes "today."

Then the rapporteur says that Mr Hashemyan has 5 minutes at his disposal. Hashemyan takes the podium and says that he wishes to continue his remarks today by referring to yesterday's remarks by Meshkini, Musavi-Ardabili, Khaz'ali, and Hashemi-Rafsnjani. He adds that he wants to clarify his stand on the word "mojtahed," and goes on to explain that in administrative matters "our hands should not be tied." He adds that if the term "mojtahed" and all the adjectives describing it are included, then what will happen if such a person is not found in the future? He adds: "We should at least leave the way open so that if one day we face a problem" and do not find one person to qualify, then they will not face a deadlock. He then refers to the remarks by Meshkini and Musavi-Ardabili, who insist on the need for "ejtehad" [theology], and says that he disagrees. He adds that he agrees with the fact that someone who is compiling a law should know about law but that this person "does not necessarily have to be a mojtahed." He concludes by saying that if the insistence is to include the word "mojtahed" [theologian], then the way should be left open for a non-mojtahed too.

The next speaker is Emami-Kashani, who speaks in favor of including the word "mojtahed" and says that this is necessary because the issue is "to create a situation which will facilitate things." He then goes on to refer to Musavi-Ardabili's remarks that in an institution the head should be more knowledgeable than his subordinates. He continues by saying that it is not right "to grant unconditional authorities to discharge or to transfer a judge to one person," and that this is an issue that should be decided upon by the Supreme Judicial Council.

The next speaker is Habibi, who refers to yesterday's discussions and says that he wants to add the fact that "if the issue of the independence of the judiciary branch is to be taken very seriously, then there are a series of other issues too that are linked with this and should be solved." He says that "one of the problems of the judiciary branch since its onset has been the absence of laws that it needed but did not have." He adds that the laws that they want must be approved by the Majlis, and the approval of some laws has been delayed. "Apparently this is one of the issues that should be solved. What should be done if they come and say that one of the basic elements necessary for our operation is laws which are being delayed by the Majlis?" Therefore, he adds, this should be placed in the hands of the legal committee of the Majlis and the Majlis should avoid discussing each and every article and paragraph of laws, which takes a long time. There have been cases, he says, when the approval of laws has been delayed for 5 years, and he cites the law on trade as an example of this. "Therefore, now that we are discussing the independence of the judiciary branch, we should also think of a correct procedure in this."

The next speaker, who is unidentified, says that apparently those who are voicing opposition do not oppose the issue of centralization in judiciary administration, but some of the articles concerning the judiciary branch in general.

The next speaker is President Khamene'i, who says that the assumption is that "one day we may not have an equitable 'mojtahed' in the country. However, this is an illogical assumption. If we see one day that we do not have an equitable 'mojtahed' who has all the necessary qualifications, then of course the leader will be the one to decide." He adds that the "extremely important term 'ejtehad'" should not be omitted "on the assumption that one day we may not have a 'mojtahed'." He adds that a judiciary branch without a 'mojtahed' is "meaningless" and is tantamount to operating a hospital without a doctor in charge.

The next speaker is 'Amid-Zanjani, who takes the podium and speaks within his capacity as the rapporteur of the committee in charge of discussing centralization in the judiciary branch. He says that it is necessary to point out a few things before discussing the problems that were propounded during the past session and the current session. He says that the committee did not see the need to "solve judiciary problems and the deadlocks in the judiciary branch and to seek the reasons" behind these problems and deadlocks. He says that the reason for this is very clear: The committee is "not after analyses but after solutions." He adds that this is why the committee only studied the contents of the imam's four letters to the judiciary branch and to some officials of the judiciary, and concentrated on those points in these letters that "would give us the reason behind the weakness" in this branch. The committee concluded, he says, that one of the major reasons that problems existed is the fact that "the country's judiciary branch is in the form of a council." There may be other reasons too, he says, but these were not dealt with by the committee.

He says that the committee concentrated on three points. One of the points was the definition of the phrase "centralization in the administration of the judiciary," which appears in the imam's letter. He adds that the imam has stated that he cannot tolerate delays in the implementation of God's commandments and that the conclusion reached by the committee from this statement by the imam and from other similar statements was "the fact that the administration in the judiciary branch which is in council form leads to a delay in judiciary affairs and, ultimately, to a delay in implementing God's commandments." Thus, he adds, the committee concluded that "the meaning of accelerating judiciary affairs and the meaning of centralization in the administration of the judiciary system are that all the judiciary responsibilities should be centralized in one place and that the final word on judiciary affairs should be given by one person." He continues by saying that even though "many of the deadlocks and problems in the judiciary stemmed from the fact that it was in council form, nevertheless some of the articles in the Constitution also aggravated these problems." This, he says, was discussed by the committee.

'Amid-Zanjani then adds that the second point is that the work of the judiciary committee has not been concluded yet and a complete report has not been submitted yet. He adds that the committee has discussed three points: centralization, the qualifications required for the head of the judiciary branch, and general responsibilities of the head of the judiciary. He says that the issues discussed by the CRC should be within the framework of these three points and that other issues can be discussed when the time comes.

At this point, he is interrupted by Hashemyan who reads Paragraph 15 that says each committee should submit its report to the chairman of the session at the latest 10 days after it begins its work. He adds that the report sent to the council from the committee does not include all the articles, and says: "You have brought only one article here. We do not know what proposals you have to make on the other articles and what you propose on centralization." He says that this is insufficient and asks how the members of the council can vote. Hashemi-Rafsanjani interrupts to say: "The correct thing would have been for a full report to be received from the committee," but this does not prevent voting. He adds: "But if you wanted to make this warning, then you should not have spoken. You should have said yesterday that this cannot be discussed. We have been through 3 hours of deliberations and we have reached the final phase and the rapporteur of the committee is stating his last defense. He should not be stopped. Please go ahead."

The rapporteur continues his remarks by referring to "ejtehad" and says that the committee has decided that

this be included as a condition, and that it is a "necessary condition." He asks: "What will happen if one of the cases calls for a decision by a 'mojtahed'?"

At this point, at 1915 GMT before the rapporteur of the committee has ended his remarks, Tehran television interrupts its coverage of the session of the CRC.

Council on Constitution Debates Judiciary

NC2505123089 [Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1844 GMT on 24 may carries a 53-minute recorded program showing the proceedings of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. A religious recitation is not carried. The program begins with 'Amid Zanjani standing at the rostrum speaking on the qualifications for the head of the judiciary, including being a mojtahed, as stipulated in Article 157. He says that since the articles on the judiciary specify particular responsibilities, this post demands special qualities to discharge those responsibilities. He adds: "Centralization means that we should not do anything which will tie the hands of an official. If we demand extensive responsibility from an official, then we must leave his hands free." He asks: "Is centralization to have a single management or a bifurcated management?" He says that this does not imply the delegation of all responsibility on one individual, as much as it means "we define a person's responsibilities and the limits to these responsibilities, as well as the limits to his jurisdiction." He then sums up the minutes of previous sessions, and says that the council favors single management—that is, management by one individual. "If you take the manager's responsibilities and hand them to another, it will create impediments in the discharge of his responsibilities."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani tells him that he has spent a lot of time repeating his point, and states: "Instead of giving reasons necessitating amendments, it is better if you give the points in favor of the amendments." 'Amid Zanjani then briefly repeats the points raised in previous sessions on whether the judiciary is to be headed by a council or an individual.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri raises an objection to Article 156 on whether it is approved in toto or in part. 'Amid Zanjani requests permission to respond to this and says that every article that is approved will be announced. If one or two articles are approved, that will be clearly specified.

'Amid Zanjani once again requests permission to make some clarifications on the modus operandi for proposing discussion on a special point or article; that is, a printed memorandum is distributed beforehand and the issue is discussed and put to vote.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha takes the floor and elaborates on the concept of "centralization in the management of the judiciary." He says the council has only reached agreement on amending Articles 157 and 158 and has retained Article 156 without amendments. He adds that the council is not expected to take each and every article of the Constitution and announce which ones have been approved and which ones are to be put to vote. He asks: "Would this then mean that if an article does not receive the requisite number of votes we have to delete it from the Constitution?" He continues that "the rapporteur should have worded it in this way: Only those articles which are causing difficulties, such as the council form of the judiciary, will be changed, as we agreed, to the form of a single manager." He states that a debate on whether the head of the judiciary should be a mojtahed or not is irrelevant at this stage. He says that if other points crop up it will be proposed that they be discussed at another session.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then calls upon Mr Habibi to air his opinions, saying "you have been rather quiet today." Habibi says that the Supreme Judicial Council should be eliminated and a single manager should replace him if the recommendation for a centralized management is approved. He then cites Article 160, which states: "The minister of justice shall be responsible for all issues related to the three branches." He adds that Mr Nuri's proposal that administrative and executive responsibilities should be eliminated and the powers of the minister of justice be increased would contribute to centralization.

Mr Hashemyan raises an objection, saying: "We are still mired in the framework of this issue. We have all accepted the concept of centralization. Despite Mr Kho'iniha's recommendations, we still have to assess certain minor points. However, at this session the discussion is on the general or major issues." This point is put to vote and it was approved that the council would discuss minor points when appropriate.

At 1935 GMT, Hashemi-Rafsanjani announces that Mr Meshkini has requested a recess and the session is adjourned without designating a date for its resumption.

50 Disabled, Sick POW's Returned to Iraq

LD2305191089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Fifty Iraqi disabled and ill POW's were today handed over to the Red Cross for returning to Iraq. Also, on the occasion of the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, the Islamic Republic of Iran will release 15 deceived persons from Tunisia, Somalia, and Sudan who had been dispatched by the Iraqi regime to fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This group includes three from Tunisia, six from Somalia, and six from Sudan.

Revolution Guards' Anti-Drug Campaign Continues

Kerman Drug Convoy Destroyed

LD1905140889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 89

[Central News Unit correspondent Vahedi report from Kerman]

[Summary] Islamic Revolution Committee guards of Kerman Province and Abuzar tactical base in the last 2

days have destroyed an international drugs smuggling convoy in the Jebal Barez heights south of Bam They seized 60 kg of opium, a number of weapons, 2,500 rounds of ammunition, 31 vehicles, and destroyed the storage places and hideouts of the armed smugglers. A number of the smugglers were killed or wounded.

18 Drug Traffickers Hanged

LD2005134489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 89

[Excerpt] According to a ruling by the Islamic revolutionary courts, 18 more merchants of death were hanged in the presence of the people of Mashhad, Shirvan, and Chahbahar. [passage omitted]

Narcotics Destroyed in Ambush

LD2005144489 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Another 15 drug smugglers were hanged in public in Mashhad and Chabahar, northeastern and southeastern Iran, Saturday.

This brings to 491, the number of traffickers executed since a new anti-drug law went into effect in January.

Of the group, 14 traffickers were hanged in Mashhad, capital of Khorasan Province, after being found guilty for distribution of 1,316 kgs of narcotics.

The tough anti-drug law carried death penalty for any drug smuggler caught with at least 30 grams of heroine or five kgs of opium.

Meanwhile at least eight drug smugglers wer killed and 1000 kgs of narcotics set ablaze in a clash between the armed forces and an international drug ring near Zahedan, Sistan va Baluchestan Province last Monday.

Mahmud Mirlohi, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC) said the clash broke out when the Armed Forces backed by helicopter gunships ambushed a convoy of traffickers at Rudmahi District, on the outskirts of Zahedan. The traffickers who had entered Iran via Pakistani border set fire to a ton of narcotics after they came under siege of the Iranian gendarmes and IRC personnel, he said.

The IRC deputy commander said eight bodies of traffickers had been found in the region, adding that 25 others might have been killed in the clash.

A large amount of ammunition and light arms, six vehicles, four motorcycles and documents containing the names of customers and places where the narcotics should have been sent were seized from the ring.

In a separate operation, Mirlohi sid IRC personnel have busted another drug gang in Jebal Barez District, 60 kms from Bam in Kerman Province, seizing 60 kgs of narcotics, and five vehicles.

13 Drug Traffickers Hanged

LD2105130189 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., May 21, IRNA—Thirteen narcotic traffickers were hanged today according to the verdict of the Islamic Revolutions court here. The ruling was was confirmed by Supreme Judicial Council. The convicts confessed to selling, buying and keeping a total of 686 kgs of opium and 16 kgs of herion.

Drugs Seized in Yazd Province

LD2105141989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of the officers of the Yazd Islamic Revolution Committee, following a patrol and purge operation in Kavir-e Iran, 850 kg of narcotics was seized.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of the province announced the news in an interview with the Central News Unit. He said: An extensive program has been started in an area of about 60,00 km in Kavir-e Iran to fight the merchants of death and prevent the import and distribution of narcotics in Yazd Province. He stressed: At present, the desert areas between Na'in and Kerman, in Yazd Province, are under observation by air and on land.

'Secret Meeting' on Arrest of Majlis Deputies

TA2505180789 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Citing reliable sources, our fellow strugglers have reported that one night before Ruhollah Khomeyni was hospitalized in order to undergo an operation, a secret meeting was held in Jamaran with the participation of Ahmad Khomeyni; Minister of Intelligence Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri; Minister of Interior 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi; Sheykh 'Abdollah [name indistinct], Khomeyni's representative in the Guards Corps; Sarajoddin Musavi, head of the revolution committees; and Tavasoli, member of Khomeyni's bureau. At this meeting important decisions were adopted with regard to security matters, the details of which are still unclear. Among other things it was decided that as soon as the

Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution ends its work, and the Islamic Consultative Assembly ratifies the referendum bill, 67 Majlis deputies will be arrested simultaneously.

Coup Danger Reportedly To Increase

TA2405175189 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] With the dissemination of the report about Ruhollah Khomeyni's operation, the danger of a coup in Tehran has increased. The disappearance yesterday and today of a number of Islamic Republic Guards Corps [IRGC] commanders from their posts has enhanced this danger.

The regime's leaders are alarmed and are (?apprehensive) about their future. We have learned that a number of the regime's senior officials have left Tehran; their whereabouts are unknown.

Other reports from Tehran indicate that 1 hour after the dissemination of the report about Ruhollah Khomeyni's operation, the revolution committees guards, who operate under the supervision of 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and [words indistinct], were deployed in Tehran's main squares and government buildings. Our fellow strugglers report that the Islamic Republic regime is alarmed about a people's (?general) uprising and is afraid that Khomeyni's death will hasten one. For this reason, the regime's leaders are terrified these days. Worst of all is that they also do not trust the IRGC.

Pakistan

DPRK's Chong Chun-ki, Delegation Arrive 22 May

BK2205090089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] A three-member delegation of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, headed by the vice premier, Mr Chong Chun-ki, arrived in Karachi this morning on a 6-day visit to Pakistan. Soon after arrival, the delegation visited the mazar [tomb] of Qaid-i Azam [Muhammad Ali Jinnah, first governor-general of Pakistan] and laid a wreath.

Meet With Benazir Bhutto

BK2305160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] A delegation of the Workers Party of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, led by Vice Premier Chong Chun-ki, called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. During the meeting, the prime minister said the Pakistani people highly respect DPRK President Kim Il-song, who has always supported Pakistan's viewpoints on regional and international issues. She said that relations between the two countries will further strengthen at governmental as well as party levels.

The delegation leader paid glowing tribute to the inspiring leadership of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the martyr, and said that he was a great leader and the real architect of the Pakistan-DPRK friendship.

Turkish Cypriot Leader 'Pleased' With Visit

TA1905114389 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 1030 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] President Rauf Denktas has ended his 2-day visit to Pakistan and left that country. In a statement at Islamabad Airport before his departure, Denktas said that he was pleased with his contacts. He explained that during his talks with Pakistan's new leaders and Foreign Ministry officials, he discussed developments in the Cyprus problem and the current situation. As always, he said, the Pakistani officials were sincere and interested.

Referring to the effects of the Greek Cypriot propaganda, President Denktas said that he met with influential intellectuals, authors, and media figures who are interested in the Turkish Cypriot cause.

Praising the close and warm interest of the Pakistani president and prime minister. Denktas thanked the Pakistani Government for its hospitality and said that brotherly Pakistan will always be loved warmly by the Turkish Cypriots.

According to information received from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus representative office in Islamabad, the president will be going to Morocco via London.

Talks Held With Iran on Border Issues

BK2505154689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The third formal meeting of Pakistan-Iran Common Border Commission began in Quetta today. It was decided at the meeting that officials of the two countries will meet each month so that they can remain fully informed of border affairs and related problems. It was also decided that if criminals or convicts from either country cross into the other country, they will be arrested and handed over to the concerned country.

Newspaper Office in Islamabad Attacked

BK2305043289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] A group [not further identified] attacked the office of an Urdu daily in Islamabad yesterday and set fire to a part of its press. Minister of state for information and broadcasting, Javed Jabbar, visited the office of the daily and assessed the damage caused to the press section. He said the People's Party considers this act as an extremely condemnable one.

Population Growth Rate Falls to 2.6 Percent
BK2505110689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Dr Sher Afghan, disclosed in the Senate today that as a result of the steps taken by the government to implement the population welfare program, the population growth rate has fallen from over 3 percent to 2.6 percent. He said this is an encouraging development indicating that more and more people are becoming receptive to the idea. This healthy trend would contribute a lot toward improving our economic conditions.

The minister of state for finance, Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha, told the house that the IMF has disbursed over $370 million to Pakistan during the current financial year.

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